

Parkinson hails privatization as better deal for customer

Electricity 'to cost less' in power sell-off

By Philip Webster and David Young

Mr Cecil Parkinson, Secretary of State for Energy, yesterday hailed his plans for privatizing the £27 billion electricity supply industry as heralding a better deal for the customer and said that they would eventually lead to cheaper electricity.

Outlining proposals for breaking up the industry and selling it to the public, Mr Parkinson said that competition was the best guarantee of the customers' interests.

He said his plans, contained in legislation to be introduced into Parliament towards the end of the year, would create a modern competitive industry, owned by the public and responsive to the needs of customers and employees.

His announcement in the Commons of the restructuring of the Central Electricity Generating Board into three new companies received a broad welcome from Conservative MPs.

It was attacked by Mr John Prescott, the Labour spokesman on energy, as "a triumph of ideology over common sense" to dismantle the integrated supply industry which had provided adequate investment, reliable supplies and prices among the lowest in the world.

They were received with regret by the CEBG, although its chairman, Lord Marshall of Goring, is not expected to resign.

Mr Parkinson's sell-off plans

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Mr Parkinson said: "I have every reason to believe that Lord Marshall, like the great public servant he is, will stay. I still have great confidence in him and it was right that he should have put forward his views so strongly."

Mr Parkinson also said that a preliminary timetable for the flotation of industry had been prepared and that the distribution side of industry would probably be the first on the market.

Every encouragement will be given to existing electricity consumers to take up shares in their area electricity boards.

Sir Philip Jones, chairman of the Electricity Council, said: "I am glad that the Secretary of State's statement removes uncertainty and enables the industry now to get down to the detailed planning required to ensure the smooth transfer of the industry to the private sector."

The privatization plans are almost exactly in line with suggestions made by Sir Philip. His council is the umbrella organization for the existing industry.

The proposals are also a triumph for the area electricity board chairmen, led by Mr Jim Smith, head of the Eastern Electricity Board, who argued that they should be privatized separately and be allowed to set up their own generating stations.

The national grid company will be owned by the 12 area electricity boards. This company will also own the cross Channel link through which France can supply power equivalent to two large power stations from its network of 74 nuclear power stations.

Sale by areas hailed in City

By Our City Staff

The City is expecting rich pickings from the privatization of the electricity industry. Analysts pointed out last night that the flotation of 14 new companies will require armies of brokers, bankers, accountants and lawyers.

In each case, both the Government as vendor and the individual area or generating company concerned will require a broker and a banker, and the leading firms are polishing their presentations in the hope of generating business.

Mr Jack Jones, energy analyst at Phillips & Drew, the securities house owned by Union Bank of Switzerland, was relieved that the industry is being sold off in area boards rather than as a single company.

"It shows it has been accepted that the big monopolists like British Gas and Telecom are no longer appropriate. We want smaller companies, and the structure being proposed leaves room for new companies to enter the generation business or for area boards to generate their own supplies."

It was accepted yesterday that the City will have little difficulty in underwriting the issues.

At Albert E Sharpe, the leading Birmingham broker which has been involved as a regional co-ordinator in other privatization issues, the team following the electricity sell-off was last night way to London.

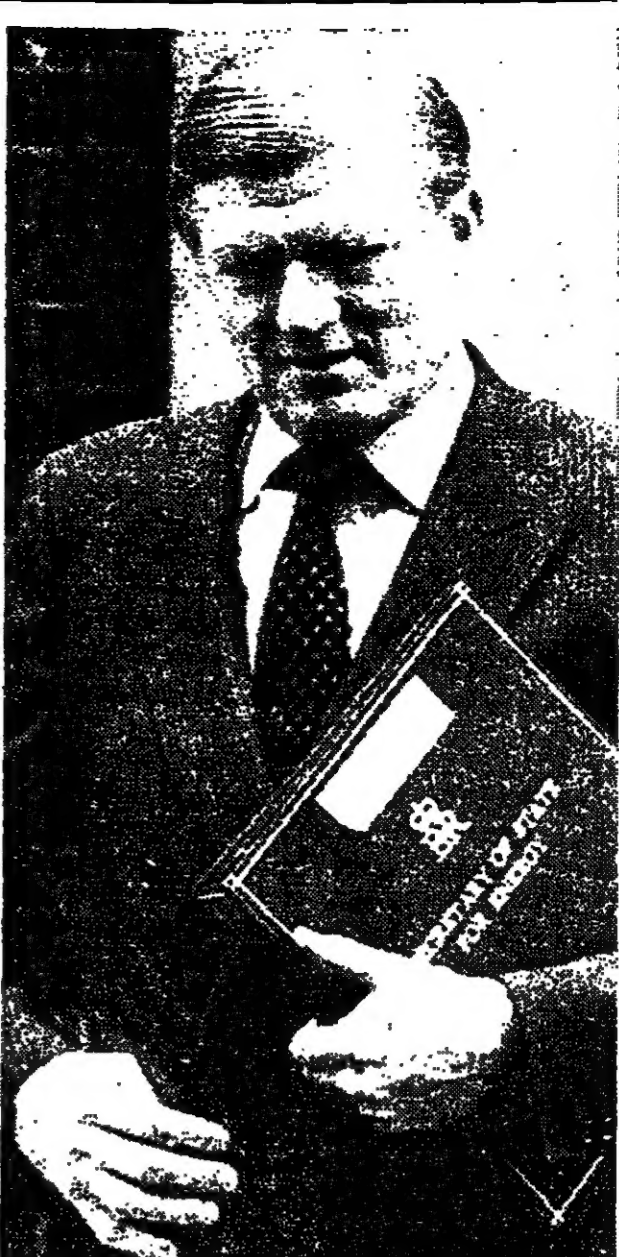
The main unions in the power supply industry last night reacted with anger and hints of industrial action (Tim Jones writes).

Mr Eric Hammond, moderate leader of the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union, said: "We will not allow the loyalty of a co-operative workforce to be abused or staff to be the exploited victims of Conservative Party dogma."

Mr John Lyons, general secretary of the Engineers' and Managers' Association, which is potentially the most powerful union in Britain, said his executive would meet next week to discuss the implications of the announcement which it has campaigned against.



Mr Lyons: Consistently opposed privatization.



Mr Parkinson leaving No 10 yesterday after briefing the Cabinet on the power sell-off. (Photograph: Tim Bishop)

Aitken quits over secret Saudi stake in TV-am

By Michael Horsnell

Mr Jonathan Aitken, the Conservative MP, last night resigned as a director of the trouble-hit breakfast television station TV-am following the row over his part in a secret £15 million Saudi Arabian investment in the station.

And in another surprise move at a seven-hour crisis meeting of the TV-am board yesterday, Mr Timothy Aitken, the MP's cousin, announced that he would stand down as chairman of station because of his position as a director of Beaverbrook Investments, which has a 15 per cent holding in TV-am. But he will remain a non-executive director.

Looking composed after the meeting of the 12-member board at a London hotel, Mr Jonathan Aitken, aged 45, said: "I have resigned because I believe it to be the right and proper course of action in the circumstances."

"I acknowledge with the wisdom of several years hindsight an error of judgement in putting too high a degree of

Labour to end policy of high taxes for rich

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

Labour leaders are planning a dramatic shift in its fiscal policies aimed at burying its reputation as the party of punitive taxation and endless handouts.

The starting point for income tax could be as low as 15 per cent, a rate that would rise smoothly with earnings to a ceiling perhaps no higher than 50 per cent.

The uncompromisingly progressive approach would be linked to a determined attack on poverty through a legally-enforceable minimum wage, a fresh assault on the poverty trap, and a programme of training aimed at getting the jobless back to work.

The new ideas are being considered by Labour's policy review group on economic equality chaired by Mr John Smith, the Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer. They will be outlined in a policy paper to be put to the party's national executive committee in the early summer, for consideration by the annual conference in the autumn.

Clues to the Opposition's new thinking are contained by an article in today's *New Statesman* by Mr John Hills, an adviser to the group and co-director of the welfare state programme at the London School of Economics.

He advocates a graduated structure with a rate lower than the existing 27 per cent basic rate band for those on below average earnings, with a higher rate for those above.

He also says that the upper rate should not be pushed beyond its current level of 60 per cent, but calls for heavier taxation of capital gains.

Sources close to the six-strong group said yesterday that it is widely recognized among Labour leaders that a fundamental overhaul of taxation policy is now urgently needed.

They acknowledge that the platform on which Labour fought the last election - a sudden big but unspecified jump in taxation on incomes above £26,000 - must be abandoned.

This policy, which was further undermined by repeated

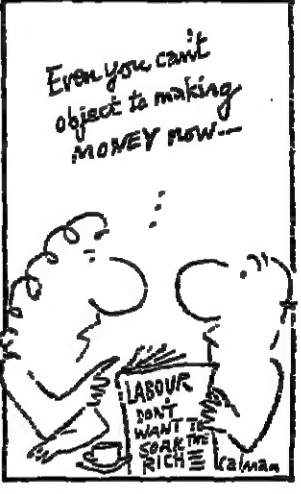
Tory accusations that Labour would abolish the £15,000 upper ceiling on national insurance contributions and scrap the married man's tax allowance, is now accepted by senior insiders as discredited.

They concede that it enabled the Conservatives to prey on the fears of the electorate and to portray their opponents as a threat to the better-off, threatening them with a sudden "drop into the abyss" of 98 per cent taxation.

Labour leaders expect Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, to cut taxes sharply in his Budget on March 15, reducing the basic rate to 25p in the pound and reducing the higher rates. By the next election, they believe the system will be simplified to just two rates - broadly a basic one of 25p and an upper one of 40p.

Their strategy, which will unfold over the next 18 months for finalization at the 1989 conference, is to respond imaginatively to the Government's challenge and to seek to present their banded approach as a fairer structure than the one they believe Mr Lawson will bequeath. Labour's upper limit would be pitched higher than the Tories, but the gap would be probably no higher than 20p more, perhaps as little as 10p.

Labour will present its tax, benefits and training package as a "pathway out of poverty" and lay greater emphasis on the need to help people back into work.



ICI profits up by 30%

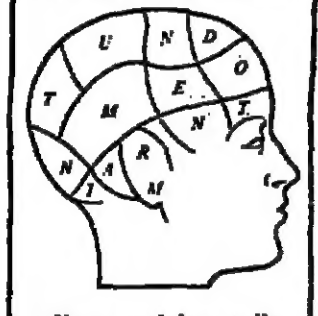
Imperial Chemical Industries yesterday reported 1987 profits of £1.3 billion, an increase of 30 per cent.

The chemical giant forecast continuing growth in 1988 and 1989, with analysts forecasting profits of up to £1.5 billion next year.

Sales advanced from £10.1 billion to £11.1 billion, with acquisitions accounting for almost half the increase in turnover.

Details, page 23

TOURNAMENT OF THE MIND



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- To tackle today's questions, turn to page 12.

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- £72,000 to be won in today's Portfolio Accumulator, plus the £4,000 daily prize (Yesterday's winners, page 3).

Portfolio list, page 29

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Thatcher attacks Botha crackdown

By Our Chief Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister yesterday condemned President Botha's latest moves to curb opposition in South Africa, accusing him of suppressing free argument and debate.

She intensified the Government's attack on the measures by describing them as a setback for peaceful negotiations. But she again ruled out the imposition of economic sanctions as a means of putting pressure on Mr Botha to end apartheid.

Mrs Thatcher's remarks came after Mr Neil Kinnock had accused her of encouraging further repression by her "pathetic appeasement" of apartheid.

The Prime Minister responded that sanctions would only make the situation worse, adding to poverty.

The South African Government on Wednesday effectively closed down 18 political organizations, including the United Democratic Front.

Earlier yesterday, South Africa's Ambassador in London, Mr Rae Killen, was summoned to see Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, to be told of Britain's dismay.

She used a 10-minute meeting to tell him that Britain believed the crackdown would drive opposition underground and encourage violence.

Church defiance, page 9

Armenia rocked by protests

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

Thousands of Armenian demonstrators crowded on to the streets of the southern Soviet republic's capital, Yerevan, yesterday demanding the return to Armenia of disputed land and thwarting Kremlin attempts to quell the most serious national unrest in recent years.

Reports of the unrest seeping into Moscow fuelled a conviction inside Western embassies that Mr Gorbachev is facing his most serious nationalist crisis so far as the protests continued unabated for the sixth successive day in defiance of a Central Committee order for calm.

The disputed area, Nagorno-Karabakhskaya, was incorporated into Soviet Azerbaijan after the 1918 Russian Civil War, but more than 90 per cent of its population are ethnic Armenians.

The current unrest has been exacerbated because the Armenians are Christian and traditionally suspicious of Shia Muslim Azerbaijanis.

Moscow residents with relatives in Armenia put the number of protesters at more than 200,000. One explained that Armenians were pouring into the ancient capital from outlying areas.

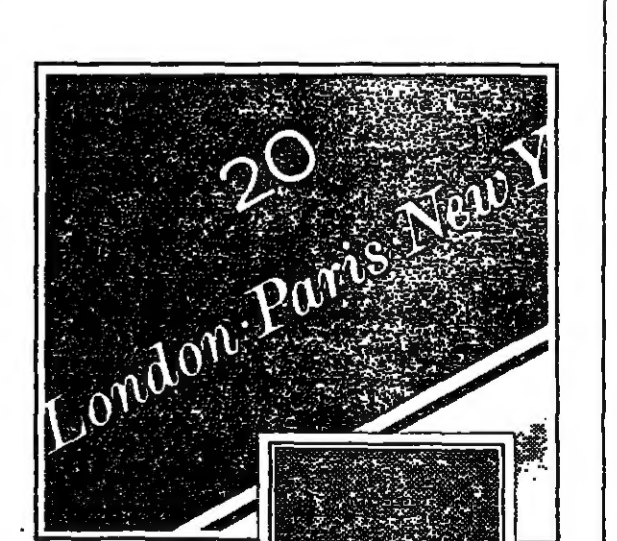
KGB attempts to impose a news blackout and bar Western journalists from the area have failed. One Yerevan resident told reporters last night by telephone: "The whole city centre is completely packed. I have never seen anything like it."

Other local sources said that the anger of the crowds had been intensified by persistent rumours of clashes between Soviet troops and demonstrators.

Eye witnesses have reported that the demonstrators have been chanting: "One people, one Republic" and making references to the fact that on February 20, the regional Soviet (council) voted to have the territory ceded back to Armenia - a vote later declared unconstitutional by Moscow.

While dissidents relaying information to news organizations here had their phones cut off, one Western correspondent who applied to visit Yerevan was told: "All hotels there are full until the end of March."

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Health Departments' Chief Medical Officers

US passport, page 23

NEWS ROUNDUP

Hostages held in NHS cuts protest

Hospital officials were taken hostage by health workers last night in a protest over spending cuts.

For an hour members of the Wirral Area Health Authority on Merseyside had been barricaded and booed as they discussed a £1.4 million package. When the cuts went through on the chairman's casting vote nurses, porters and drivers slammed the conference room doors at Clatterbridge Hospital, locked them and refused to allow anyone in or out.

Police were pelted with stink bombs by about 60 protesters, members of the Confederation of Health Service Employees, the National Union of Public Employees and the Transport and General Workers' Union.

They retreated behind the boardroom door and refused to move. An inspector and two police constables took up position outside the doors, but did not try to eject demonstrators.

Thatcher mixture, page 5

Backing for EEC Boy, 12, remanded

More Britons now think the nation is benefiting from EEC membership but, according to a poll published yesterday, British indifference to Europe is still the highest of any member state.

The EEC Commission survey found 49 per cent of Britons seeing advantages from membership, against 32 per cent five years ago, with 42 per cent deriving no benefit.

Nearly half the country is in favour of a single European market; almost a third support the creation of a European government.

Police leaks 'justified'

A former Scotland Yard detective told a jury yesterday that leaks of confidential information to members of the public could be justified in certain circumstances.

Mr Harry Clements, who retired as a detective chief superintendent in 1983, told the Central Criminal Court that he would concede it if it was consistent with his "overriding duty to the public and society as a police officer".

He was giving evidence for the defence of Det Constable Kenneth White, aged 39, of Watkinson Road, Holloway, north London, who denies breaching Section 2 of the Official Secrets Act by passing on information from the Police National Computer to a private investigation agency.

Warning on pills Eviction battle

Up to a million old people take a sleeping pill every night even though it is probably doing them harm, a survey says today.

Doctors at Nottingham University medical school found that of about 1,000 elderly patients studied more than 16 per cent took sleeping pills which could be addictive and cause confusion.

A quarter had taken the pills for more than ten years. Experts believe the drugs tend to lose their sleep-promoting properties within three to 14 days of continuous use.

Air miss alarm

Air traffic controllers said last night that people were overreacting to apparent air miss dangers.

Passengers on an Air Canada flight talked of a "near disaster" yesterday when a pilot made a second landing because he was slightly above the main glide path. Officials said it was normal procedure.

Earlier the pilot of a helicopter had reported an air miss after he had passed nearly a quarter of a mile behind another helicopter over the North Sea.

Rail flag censured

A coroner has condemned the flag-waving warning procedure used by workmen for British Rail after four men died when they were hit by a train.

The jury at an inquest held in Wakefield into the deaths at Meibley junction, near Leeds, found their deaths were as a result of an inadequate warning system, lack of training and insufficient supervision.

Verdicts of manslaughter were returned.

Mr Philip Gill, West Yorkshire coroner, said he hoped new warning procedures would be introduced to prevent such tragedies in the future.

He asked why the system had been operating for 20 years without change.

Union poses growing threat to Labour reform

By Roland Rudd

The man at the centre of the dispute over the hard-left takeover of the Transport and General Workers' Union is likely to prove a tough opponent of Mr Neil Kinnock's plans for party reform.

Mr Alan Quinn, elected unopposed to the union's general executive after the death of Mr Bobby McGuire, his opponent, is expected to be made vice chairman of the ruling body.

Mr Quinn, a Militant supporter from the Merseyside-based Region Six, has already proved an embarrassment to Mr Kinnock. He was elected last year to Labour's national constitutional committee, set up to root out Militant infiltration.

Moderate officials of the TGWU yesterday said they were prepared to take their allegations of ballot irregularities to the government Certification Officer if the union does not order a re-run in the key 14 trade group ballots.

Mr Ron Todd, the general secretary, said he had received

confirmation that the counts and their scrutiny had been properly completed. However, members of the soft-left and centre-right coalition claimed to have "irrefutable evidence" of irregularities which centre on the high returns in the hard-left controlled regions representing London and the South-east, the North-west and Ireland.

The result infuriated the Labour leadership, which was unable to mount any moves to expel Mr Quinn from the committee since he was elected in a postal ballot, coming third out of the trade union nominations and polling more than three million votes.

Moderate Labour officials were angry that Mr Ron Todd, the

union's general secretary, allowed Mr Quinn to be nominated for the committee. Labour MPs feared that the NCC could not operate effectively if any member failed to support Mr Kinnock's plans to root out all Militant infiltration.

Mr Quinn is no stranger to controversy; he was alleged to have been involved in an assault on Mr

Denis Mills, the Birmingham lorry drivers' leader.

After calls from some of the regional officers to bar Mr Quinn from union membership, he was expelled from the general executive council only to be later reinstated by the appeals committee.

Mr Quinn is a strong ally of Mr Bobby Owens, the union's regional secretary in the North-west, which is funding the legal fees of Militant Tendency supporters fighting expulsion from the Labour Party.

Mr Quinn is a leading figure in Broad Left, a faction in Region Six, whose members are being investigated by senior Labour officials for their alleged links to the Militant Tendency.

Mr Kevin Coyne, the manager of

Merseyside's unemployment and benefit centre and a former secretary of Broad Left, and Mr Martin Cantor, the present secretary, have been asked by Mr Peter Kilfoyle, a senior Labour official in the North-west, to explain their "position in terms of support for Militant nominees and tactics within the Broadgreen Labour Party".

Mr Quinn is expected to receive a similar letter.

He has many supporters in the North-west although the region's financial activities have alienated non-Militant committees.

In June 1987, the Liverpool Docks and Waterways Committee dissociated itself from the region and its officers after claiming that officials were turning a "blind eye" to financial irregularities.

Fatal bomb blast in Belfast city centre reveals IRA strike power

Hurd rallies support for Ulster police

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, rallied to the side of Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, and Sir John Hermon, Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, with ringing endorsements of their leadership in the wake of the Stalker-Samson inquiry.

Mr Hurd, who outlined progress made under the Anglo-Irish agreement and improvements in the RUC under the leadership of Sir John, gave warning of the dangers of denigrating the force.

In a speech aimed at reassuring Conservative backbenchers of the benefits of the agreement with Dublin, he said it would not be put in jeopardy by short-term crises which have led to strain in Anglo-Irish relations.

He repeated earlier warnings given in the Commons by the Prime Minister and Mr King of the danger posed by terrorism to both Northern Ireland and the Irish republic and stressed the importance of cross-border security co-operation.

Mr King said in the Commons that new weapons believed to have come from Libya posed a serious threat. Security forces had seized 222 guns, 63,000 rounds of ammunition and 392 lbs of explosives this year. The Garda had seized 125 weapons, 80,000 rounds of ammunition and 600 lbs of explosives.

Mr Hurd, who was one of the principal draughtsmen of the Anglo-Irish agreement, insisted that it was in the interests of both countries and both communities in Northern Ireland. He said: "It will not be put in jeopardy by short-term crises. Both governments will ensure that it endures and grows stronger."

He listed a number of changes of interest to the nationalist community since the agreement was signed and paid tribute to the "skilful stewardship" of Mr King, who has been under strong criticism from opposition MPs.

Mr Hurd praised the growing stature and effectiveness of the RUC, saying that its standards of professionalism deserved respect. "The controversies about the past are serious but they must not blur or spoil improvements which have been achieved under Sir John Hermon's leadership."

Earlier, Mr King blamed



The remains of the Ulster Defence Regiment Land Rover wrecked in Belfast city centre; Mr Frederick Starrett (top right) and his colleague Mr James Cummings who were killed by the bomb as they tried to lock security gates in Royal Avenue.

The 150lb bomb which killed two young soldiers and wrecked Belfast shop frontages over a 300-yard radius on Wednesday night could jeopardize the city's commercial revival.

The IRA bomb was placed behind hoardings surrounding Belfast's biggest development, the £70 million Castlereagh shops and offices complex, on which John Laing began work last October, for completion in 1990.

No tenants have yet been announced for Castlereagh, the centrepiece of which is to be a large department store surrounded by 80 other shops.

The bomb was hidden next to the security gates which close off one stretch of Royal Avenue at night. A Provisional IRA terrorist triggered it from a vantage

point near by as members of a UDR patrol were closing the gates at 11.15pm.

One part-time soldier was killed instantly; a second died in hospital a short time later. Two other soldiers and a passer-by received minor injuries. The blast threw the patrol's armoured Land Rover across the street and ripped off its roof. The dead men, Mr James Cummings and Mr Frederick Starrett, both aged 22, served with the UDR's 7/10 City of Belfast Battalion.

The Northern Ireland Office acknowledged that a security lapse had allowed the IRA to make its most telling strike against the city centre for years.

While the hoardings along the Royal Avenue frontage were within the guarded security area there was open access at the

back of the eight-acre Castlereagh site through which the bomb was carried in. It was triggered from the adjacent Winstanley Street with a command wire which snaked right across the site.

There are fears that the city's dramatic commercial revival since about 1982 under the slogan "Belfast is buzzing" could be damaged by such a bombing.

Yesterday, however, Belfast's well-practised resilience was shining through. Along the street an undamaged Marks & Spencer was having "a normal day's trading after a somewhat slow start", Mr John Hunt, general manager, said. Another store executive said: "It will take more than one bomb to set this city back again."

Ulster border shooting

Soldier in Army custody

More details emerged yesterday of the fatal shooting in Co Tyrone on Sunday of Mr Aldan McAnespie, when the Northern Ireland High Court bailed into military custody a teenage guardman on a manslaughter charge.

Private David Holden, aged 18, of the Second Battalion Grenadier Guards appeared in court handcuffed to a prison officer. He had spent one night in Crumlin Road prison, Belfast, after a resident magistrate declined to bail him into Army hands.

Counsel for the prosecution read a statement Private Holden had made to the Royal Ulster Constabulary saying he had cleaned the barrel of a general-purpose machinegun which a sergeant had dismantled and later reloaded.

The sergeant's responsibility to reassemble and reload the gun and to render it safe.

Shortly after seeing Mr McAnespie, a Gaelic foot-

baller, walking through a checkpoint at the border village of Aughacloy, where he had been on duty since 8.30am, Private Holden noticed that the gun was not correctly pointed towards the high ground from which terrorist attacks on the post normally emanated.

He went to move the gun across the window, but he had been engaged in cleaning duties, his hands were wet, the gun was heavy and one hand slipped off the trigger guard.

His fingers touched the trigger, three shots were discharged and he was "horrified", the statement said.

He immediately reported the discharge and a short time later was alerted that someone had been hit.

He was taken aside and given cigarettes to calm down. He had not pointed the gun at Mr McAnespie either in jest or to shoot him, Private Holden said.

The bail application was

granted and Private Holden will be held in Army custody until his next court appearance on March 7.

A police constable who died when the RUC stormed a flat in a bid to arrest a leading Irish National Liberation Army terrorist has been awarded a posthumous Queen's Gallantry Medal.

The award of the medal to Constable Michael Todd is announced today in a list of Civil Gallantry Awards almost four years after he died in the shooting at a flat in west Belfast.

Constable Todd, aged 22, from Lambeg, Co Antrim, died in hospital after he was shot when police raided the flat to arrest a "staff officer" in the outlawed INLA organization.

The INLA terrorist, Paul "Bonanza" McCann, from the Lower Falls area of Belfast, also died in the shooting. Two other RUC officers were injured in the shooting incident.

Pay rises of 5.2% forecast

By John Spicer
Employment Affairs Correspondent

Office and factory workers can look forward to average pay rises of 5.2 per cent in the coming 12 months which, with inflation forecasts to remain fairly steady and further tax cuts imminent, will see standards of living continuing to rise during 1988.

A survey on pay prospects for "clerical and operative" workers says, however, that the rate of improvement is likely to be lower than for 1987, unless the Chancellor is over-generous in the Budget.

Answers from 877 companies questioned nationwide found that factory workers' average pay fell 2.2 per cent to 5.5 per cent last year, while the pay for office workers held up with their average pay dropping 0.3 per cent from 6.9 per cent to 6.6 per cent.

The average bonus payment to clerical staff was £305 or 4.7 per cent of basic salary. "It suggests that many more companies ought to be looking at making use of the profit related pay tax concessions", the survey said.

It also showed that the North-South divide is widening as far as pay differentials are concerned: in outer London wages were 17.7 per cent higher than the national average; in the North-west they were 8.1 per cent below the average.

Clerical and Operative Rewards, Winter 1987-88 (The Reward Group, 1 Mill Street, Stone, Staffordshire, ST15 8BA; £56 each or £90 annual subscription).

Surveying Times (The Surveying Times, 100, Victoria Road, London SW15 2NU; £100 each or £150 annual subscription). *Surveying Times* (The Surveying Times, 100, Victoria Road, London SW15 2NU; £100 each or £150 annual subscription).

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Meeting to discuss secrecy in courts

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Lord Chancellor's officials are to hold an unprecedented meeting with newspaper editors, officials from the Home Office, magistrates and justices clerks because of mounting concern over court secrecy.

The meeting next month, which is expected to result in guidance from the Lord Chancellor to magistrates on their dealings with the media, has been prompted by a report last week by the Association of British Editors.

It alleged that defendants with the right connections were making sure their cases were not reported through abuse of the Contempt of Court Act, 1981, which allows courts to withhold details of proceedings.

Yesterday an official from the Lord Chancellor's Department said that it wanted to establish the truth of the allegations. At least one case could be

explained and a complaint had been lodged with the Press Council.

Pressure is also mounting on the Government to legislate over court secrecy. Yesterday another group, the Guild of British Newspaper Editors, expressed its concern over secrecy to Lord Chancellor's officials.

The guild is pressing for changes in the Criminal Justice Bill, so far rejected by the Government, to give newspapers and the public the right to see copies of records of the decisions of magistrates' and crown court decisions.

Both the guild and the Labour Party frontbenchers in the Bill's committee stage have tabled amendments to grant public access to court records of judicial decisions, as is done automatically at Coventry courts, enabling the *Coventry Evening Telegraph* to publish lists of court decisions.

The guild told officials that the address of a defendant is part of the identity of a person and ought to be given.

Second, it said that plans to use more documentary evidence in crown courts would restrict the ability of the press to give a proper court report unless a document was made available; and third, that courts ought to keep a public record of their decisions.

Mr David Newell, the guild's secretary, said: "If we can't obtain this right on a statutory basis, at the very least there should be guidance to justices' clerks from government officials to promote such arrangements."

It also wants an appeal procedure against restrictions made under the Children and Young Persons' Act and against decisions to operate in camera.

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'Railway murders' accused convicted of raping two girls

By Stewart Teadler, Crime Reporter

John Duffy, accused of the two "railway murders", was found guilty at the Central Criminal Court yesterday of raping a schoolgirl aged 14 and a nurse aged 18 at knifepoint.

The nurse was attacked in February 1985 at Hadley Wood in north London. The schoolgirl was attacked near Watford, Hertfordshire, in October 1986.

At the end of a six-week trial, the jury of six men and six women will today continue considering 11 other charges against Duffy, from north London. He is accused of five other rapes, the murder of Miss Alison Day, aged 19, a secretary, in east London in December 1985, and the murder of Maartje Tamboezer, aged 15, a schoolgirl, at East Horsley, Surrey, in April 1986.

Earlier in the trial, Mr Justice Farquharson directed the jury to find Duffy not guilty of murdering Mrs Anne Lock, aged 29, a London

Weekend Television secretary, in Hertfordshire in the summer of 1986.

Yesterday, Duffy was convicted of attacking the 14-year-old girl, the last of his alleged victims, as she was on her way home from school. She was forced at knifepoint into woods and her hands were tied behind her back.

Duffy gagged and blindfolded her before he raped her against a tree.

In court, she was in tears as she described the attack. Duffy came up to her chewing gum and then asked the time, she said.

He grabbed her, putting a hand over her mouth, and said he had a knife.

In the other attack, Duffy, wearing a tracksuit and hood, approached his victim at a north London train station, asking about train times. A knife was put to the girl's throat and she was dragged into woodland.

In court the girl said: "He said if I struggled or screamed he would slash my throat. He held me with his other arm so I could not move."

"He put his arm round me to make it look as if we were a couple from behind, but he still had the knife at my neck."

The girl was dragged across brambles on a railway embankment, over railway tracks and into woodland. She thought she was about to be killed.

Before raping her, Duffy declared she had "better make it good". After raping her, the girl said, Duffy seemed "pleased with that, but he did not give a damn about me. I was so frightened and in such shock I did not know what was happening. I thought he was going to slash my throat or something."

Duffy then asked the girl if she had ever thought of learning self-defence.

Baritone steps into limelight



Alexandru Agache, a previously unknown baritone who has never sung outside his native Romania, taking centre stage at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London, yesterday. Mr Agache, aged 33, has been chosen to replace Giorgio Zancanaro, who has an ear condition, as the second lead in Verdi's *A Masked Ball*, which opens tonight.

TV adverts 'rarely influence children'

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

Children love television advertisements but are rarely persuaded to buy the products promoted, according to a study published yesterday, which said that children are influenced more by the attitude of their parents, friends, and their upbringing.

The preliminary results of the three-year investigation commissioned by the Advertising Association into the effects of commercials on children aged seven to 14 were produced to offset criticism that young people start smoking and drinking as a result of advertisements.

"The research provides many reasons

for rejecting the hypothesis that advertising to children unfairly manipulates the young", the report said.

"It appears that young people are far more influenced in decisions to start using products such as drink and tobacco by social and situational factors such as the behaviour of parents and friends."

The research shows that children are interested in advertising, particularly on television, but largely in terms of entertainment value.

Cigarettes are seldom listed among favourite advertisements.

Eighteen per cent of 10 to 14-year-olds admitted trying cigarettes but said they did so because of peer pressure, family influences and social factors.

Beer advertisements are popular with children but the researchers say there is no direct link between the entertainment value of the advertisements and consumption by young teenagers.

Advertising expenditure in the United Kingdom and United States is forecast to grow by 10.5 per cent and 9.5 per cent respectively in 1988, according to a review published yesterday by Barclays de Zoete Wedd.

Lords outlaw stun gun sales

By David Sapsted

All sales of electric stun guns, capable of inflicting a shock of up to 70,000 volts, were outlawed by the House of Lords yesterday in a decision that made the possession of thousands of the weapons illegal.

Five Law Lords unanimously agreed that the sale of the guns, marketed as anti-rape and anti-mugging devices, should come within the restrictions of the Firearms Act, 1968, effectively making it illegal either to sell or buy the weapons.

The decision was immediately welcomed by the Home Office whose original opinion that the weapons should be regarded as firearms covered by Section 5 of the Act — putting them in the same category as sub-machineguns and other outlawed weapons — was "reluctantly" overturned by a High Court ruling in November that they did not fall within the terms of the 1968 Act.

Earlier this month a teenage student became the first British victim of a mugging by youths wielding a stun gun, originally developed for police forces in the United States to disarm drug addicts by inflicting an electric shock which would not result in permanent, physical damage.

In the past year, the guns have been widely marketed in Britain at prices between £50-£100, causing concern to senior police officers that they would soon be added to the criminal arsenal. Sales were boosted in November when the High Court overturned a magistrate court conviction against Mr Ian Flack, a registered firearms dealer, of Bordon, Hampshire, for possessing a stun gun without the relevant certificate.

The Home Office was so worried by the ruling that it included a provision in the post-Hungerford Firearms Amendment Bill which is still before Parliament, specifically

outlawing weapons capable of discharging an electric charge.

Yesterday Lord Ackner said the Law Lords had expedited the hearing of the appeal because, although the proposals to tighten up the legislation were pending, they would not come into effect until the summer and the police were "greatly concerned" about the uncontrolled import and sale of stunning devices.

Lord Ackner said there was no dispute that the stun gun was a weapon and that the electricity it released was a "noxious thing", having regard to its effect on the victim. Five officers from Thames Valley Police will attend a Downing Street reception given by the Prime Minister on Monday in recognition of the part they played in the capture of Michael Ryan, the gunman who committed suicide after killing 16 people and injuring 30 more in Hungerford, Berkshire, on August 19.

Law Report, page 28

Jail toll climbs despite reforms

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Prisoners from London were being held in police cells as far away as Plymouth and North Yorkshire yesterday as the jail crisis in England and Wales worsened.

The number of prisoners in police cells who should have been in jails reached 1,417, according to the latest Home Office figures.

Added to the rest of the jail population, they pushed the total of prisoners to more than 50,000 for the first time this year.

The prison population is creeping back to the level of last July when Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, cut numbers by more than 3,000 by increasing remission on sentences of 12 months or less.

At the time, there were 50,381 in jail and 648 in police cells. The official prison capacity was 41,688.

The rise this year has been faster than the increase in accommodation. The prison population on January 1 was 46,825, with another 442 held

in police cells. The official capacity of prisons, which was then 42,358, is now 42,874.

Full Sutton Prison, near York, with a capacity of 444, began taking prisoners last November. Littlehey, near Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, which can hold 484, began taking prisoners this month.

The quarterly review of the Prison Reform Trust says that of the 26 prisons in the current building programme, four are occupied and four have no site.

Boy died after drinking methadone

A boy aged eight died after drinking a heroin substitute left at his parents' house by a former addict.

Kieran Sheppard and a girl aged six swallowed beakers of the sweet-tasting drug methadone while his parents slept, an inquest at Bath was told yesterday. The boy lapsed into a coma and never regained consciousness.

Police have been unable to trace Mr Nick Sheppard, aged 29, the boy's stepfather, and his wife. In a statement the Sheppards said that they had met Carol Clarke, the former addict, on June 21 last

year and invited her to their house to play cards.

Mrs Sue Sheppard, of Charlcombe Manor, Charlcombe Lane, Larkhall, Bath, said that she threw out Miss Clarke after she became awkward and abusive.

The next morning Mrs Sheppard, aged 25, awoke to find the girl staggering around. "I asked her what she had been up to and she told me: 'We drank something. Kieran had three cups and I had one and a half' — it was yummy."

Mrs Sheppard's son was lying face down on the bed.

"His face and lips were bluish and I couldn't rouse him. I screamed out to Nick and I called an ambulance." The boy died later that morning in hospital.

Miss Clarke, of Entry Hill, Bath, wept as she said: "When I told Sue Sheppard I used to be on heroin she became very violent towards me. She was demanding my methadone but I need it."

"It's like life or death to me. I hid it under the duvet and then Sue kicked me out."

The hearing continues today.

'Gamble' over a Van Gogh

SALE ROOM

By Sarah Jane Checkland
Art Market Correspondent

Another major painting by Van Gogh is to come under the hammer at Christie's New York. It is a portrait in profile of Adeline Ravoux, the girl aged 13 who witnessed the painter's suicide a month after he painted her.

It will be auctioned on May 11 with an estimate of £8 million to £12 million.

Art market experts think Christie's may be taking a gamble with the painting. They are banking on the fact that paintings by Van Gogh have in recent years adopted a price scale of their own, far outstripping all other artists.

The four most expensive works of art ever sold at auction: "Landscape with Rising Sun" (£8.14 million, 1985); "Le Pont de Trinquetaille" (£12.65 million, 1987); "Sunflowers" (£24.75 million, 1987) and "Irises" (£53.9 million, 1987) are all by Van Gogh.

Rivalry between Sotheby's and Christie's to find Van Gogh paintings has fuelled the spiralling prices. Record prices for paintings by his equally famous contemporaries — £7.7 million for Manet; £7.5 million for Degas — trail far behind.

Some observers feel that the

latest painting has less appeal than the previous four, which are all decorative in subject, and perfect for private homes. The painting also appeared on the market as recently as 1980, fetching \$1.8 million at Sotheby's, and appears to have been kept as an investment.

"The risk element is high, as it is not a fresh painting", one dealer said.

Before opting for Christie's, the owner, an anonymous private collector, was approached by a consortium of dealers, including Lefevre Galleries and Eugene Thaw, who promised to sell it privately for a more modest sum.

Mr Martin Summers, of Lefevre, said: "Considering what Van Goghs are going for in the sale room, I cannot blame anyone putting it into auction."

Christie's completed its two-day sale in Rome in triumph yesterday, achieving two and a half times its pre-sale estimate, at £1.4 million. A set of six Louis XVI armchairs

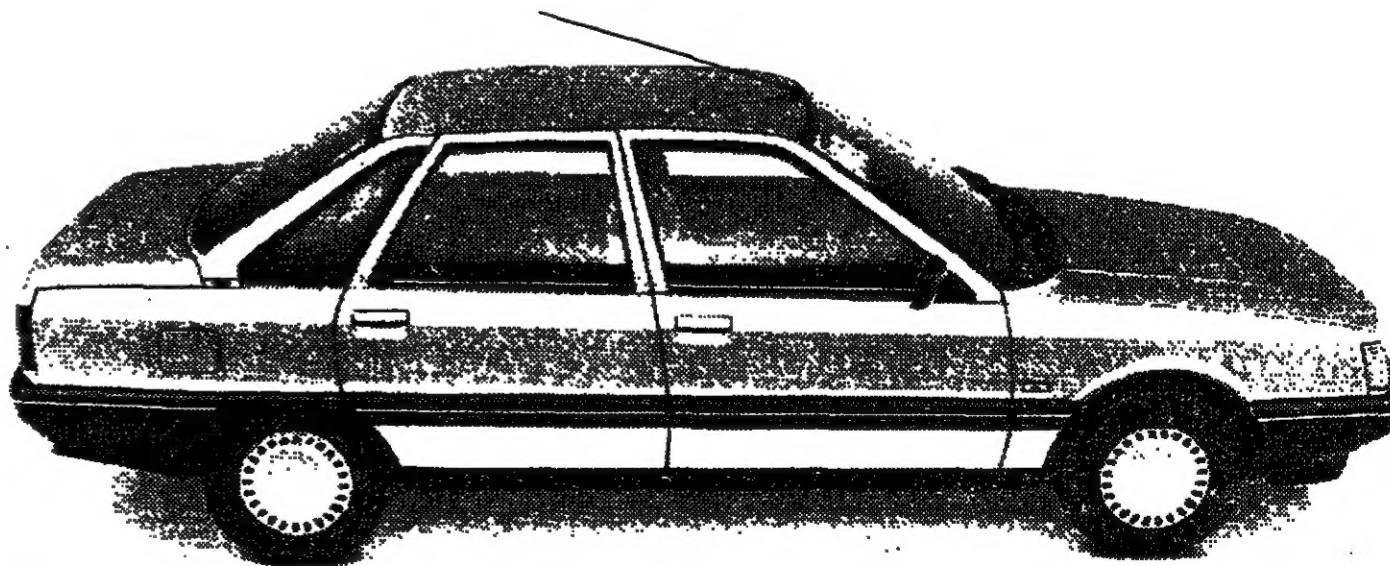
fetched the top price of 1.2 million lire (£93,033) against an estimate of up to 20,000 lire, while a painting of the nativity by Veronese fetched 149.5 million lire (£67,190).

The most runaway price was 126.5 million lire (£56,853) against an estimate of 3,000 to 5,000 lire, for a Florentine nineteenth century intarsia, or inlaid, casket.

Sotheby's New York reported good prices at its nineteenth century European paintings, drawings and sculpture sale on Wednesday, although a third failed to sell. The top price, at double its estimate, was for a painting of an Italian girl walking with a water jar on her head, by the French nineteenth century painter, Corot. It sold for \$418,000 (£233,689) to a Japanese dealer.

A mobile by the American artist Alexander Calder topped Sotheby's contemporary art sale prices in London yesterday, selling for £58,300 against an estimate of up to £50,000.

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PARLIAMENT

How electricity industry will be divided

The electricity supply industry is to be sold to the public as two generating companies and 12 area distribution companies. Mr Cecil Parkinson, Secretary of State for Energy, said in a Commons statement. A separate national grid company will belong to the 12 distribution companies.

He said that the industry would achieve more in the private sector where it would be freed from Government interference and be accountable to its customers and shareholders, including employee shareholders.

The proposals had been framed according to six principles. Decisions about supply should be driven by customer needs. Competition was the best guarantee of the customer's interests. Regulation should promote

competition, oversee prices and protect customers' interests in areas of natural monopoly. Security and safety of supply must be maintained. Customers should be given new rights, not just safeguards. Employees should be offered a direct stake in their future and new career opportunities.

Distribution and transmission of electricity were largely natural monopolies. But there was no natural monopoly in electricity generation. Only with competition would there be real incentives for generators to build power stations efficiently, make them available and fuel and run them efficiently.

Three conditions must be met for competition in generation to develop. The effective monopoly of the Central

Electricity Generating Board must be ended. Ownership and control of the national grid must be transferred to the distributors. The CEBG's obligation to provide bulk supplies of electricity must be ended because it obliged the CEBG to take all key decisions on power supply.

Legislation would therefore be introduced at the earliest opportunity to restructure and privatise the industry. The CEBG would be reorganised into three new companies.

The first would be non-nuclear with 30 per cent of the CEBG's generating capacity. The second would comprise the remaining 60 per cent of generating capacity, both fossil-fuelled and nuclear. The third would be a national grid company. Its ownership would be

transferred to the 12 area boards which would themselves become area distribution companies. The Electricity Council would be abolished. Shares in the two generating companies and the 12 boards would be sold to the public and employees.

"In future, distribution companies will be able to look to private generators, Scotland, France, the two large generating companies or their own generation to meet demand."

The legislation would establish regulatory arrangements to promote competition, provide incentives for efficiency and oversee electricity prices.

Security of supply would be protected by a clear obligation to supply

on the 12 distribution companies to ensure they contracted for sufficient capacity. The national grid company, owned by the 12 companies, would retain its central role in planning and directing the use of power stations to prevent system failure and minimize cost. The integrity of the grid and the operation of power stations in merit order would be preserved.

The other principal condition for secure supply was to ensure generation from a diversity of fuels. "It would be irresponsible to rely on fossil fuels to meet all electricity requirements. The legislation will therefore provide for a clear obligation to be placed on the distribution companies to contract for a specified

proportion of non-fossil-fuelled generating capacity."

The legislation would incorporate an electricity supply code. Present safety standards would be maintained. Consumers would be given the right to financial compensation if the distribution companies failed to provide a guaranteed level of service. The companies would be required to publish indicators of standards of service.

Employees would benefit from wider career opportunities. "There will be attractive provision to ensure that they can acquire shares." Pensions would be safeguarded. There would be no changes in negotiating and consultation machinery.

A First Lord proud of her job

Economic forecasts were notoriously difficult but the most respected were those of the Treasury, of which she was proud to be the First Lord, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, told MPs at question time.

She was responding to Mr Timothy Smith (Beaconsfield, Ch), who had asked her to ignore the latest forecast from the National Institute of Economic and Social Research and advise them to get a new computer.

They had forecast growth 1.8 per cent for the calendar year on 1987 and a public sector borrowing requirement of £11 billion. Growth was actually 4.8 per cent and there was no PSBR at all.

Inside knowledge

Mr Harold McCusker (Upper Barn, OUP) was not in the Commons to ask a question which he had put down about Crumlin Road Prison in Belfast because he is resident there.

His question called on Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, to lead to pay an official visit to the jail to discuss prison conditions.

The Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill) said that Mr McCusker and three other Unionist MPs - Mr William Ross (Londonderry East), Mr Clifford Forsyth (Antrim South) and the late Sir David Ross (Belfast South) - had each been sentenced to seven days' imprisonment.

[They are serving sentences for refusing to pay fines for taking part in an illegal procession last April in defiance of new public order laws.]

St David is ousted

Welsh MPs are worried that the devolution they traditionally want on St David's Day, next Tuesday, might drop by the next day. Mr Raymond Powell (Ogmore, Lab) said during exchanges after the announcement of next week's business.

The debate on Welsh affairs, also traditionally held on St David's Day, will this year be a day later, and, despite protests and inquiries from several Welsh MPs, Mr John Wakeham, Leader of the House, declined either to change the arrangement or to say why St David cannot be honoured as usual, in the House of Commons.

During the exchanges one Labour MP shouted the possible solution for his colleagues: Wear leeks!

Dock board stays for now

The Government had no plans at present to abolish the Dock Labour Board, Lord Young of Grafton, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, said in the House of Lords during questions. But he could not give a assurance that both sides of the industry would be fully consulted if the Government decided to do so.

He told Lord Boyd-Carpenter (C) that he was aware of the drawbacks and some of the harm that the board had forced on ports in the past.

Cash is cut

The cash limit on expenditure by the Crown Prosecution Service is being cut by £22,209,000 to £48,800,000 because the department has failed to recruit sufficient staff to carry out its statutory duties. Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Attorney General, said in a written Commons reply.

Privatization ordered 'to finance tax cuts'

The privatization programme disclosed in the White Paper was a policy to maximize the price for selling off a Treasury and energy asset in order to finance tax cuts, Mr John Prescott, Opposition spokesman on energy, said.

Mr Cecil Parkinson, Secretary of State for Energy, said that if the Opposition cared about the future of coal they should talk to the trade unions and explain the need for flexibility and modern work practices to meet the flexible and modern investment being made.

He said later that the Government believed that a generation of pressurized water reactors, six of them built in succession, was needed as a means of meeting the energy obligation.

Mr Prescott said that the suggestion had been that privatization would be in the interests of the consumer whose needs would be guaranteed.

But the statement showed that what the Government was doing was to protect a monopoly. There was nothing about competition. The Secretary of State had admitted that distribution was a natural monopoly and if government supporters did not understand that they did not understand their own competition philosophy.

Privatization would take the industry back 50 years in its organization. It was an integrated system that had produced efficiency and a cheap product. Dismantling it was against world trends and represented a triumph of ideology over common sense.

POWER

Why dismantle a system that had ensured adequate investment, reliability, and electricity prices among the lowest in the world - produced by a public utility?

The Electricity Council's recent report showed that electricity prices in Britain were the sixth cheapest of the world's 20 main economies. What guarantee was there that a privatized industry would produce lower prices?

The proposed electricity price increase had already been rejected as unjustified by the CBI, the Electricity Consumer Council and every consumer body. But the newly published White Paper had nothing to say about prices.

"The increase means nothing more than a privatization tax designed to fatten up the industry prior to privatization paid for by the consumer."

What guarantee would there be that British generating capacity would not be taken over by foreign owners? Would there be a "golden share" whatever that was worth after Brexit?

Would the obligation to supply, to be placed on the distributing companies, guarantee a maximum co-operation from the private companies in protecting generation of power in any circumstances, particularly in an emergency? Did he want to be known as the first minister for blackouts?

Coal importation would mean 30 million tonnes of coal costing £1,000 million to add to a balance of trade deficit already at a record level of £14,000 million?

It was a policy to maximize the price for selling off a Treasury asset and energy asset in order to finance tax cuts.

Mr Parkinson agreed that distribution was a natural monopoly, but early 80 per cent of the costs of the industry arose from generation and that was not a natural monopoly.

The proposal was to introduce competition into generation and at the same time to make sure that the distributors did not abuse their monopoly power and that they were properly regulated so that customers would have a choice and have rights enshrined in law.

The Government believed the industry would become more efficient. At present it was dominated by a single supplier and the customer had no choice. The proposal would tilt the balance of the industry so that it would be dominated by the needs of the customer.

Coal importation was possible now, but did not take place because of the long-term agreement between the CEBG and British Coal.

If British Coal remained a reliable and competitive supplier it would continue to supply what was worth after Brexit to the electricity industry. But it would not be a supplier of obligation, it would remain a supplier of choice, on the basis of its performance.

Mr David Howell (Guildford, C) said that, as the Government proposed that the whole nuclear programme should now go into the private sector, Mr Parkinson should reassure MPs that the nuclear building programme would be rigorously overhauled, tightly controlled and made suitable for the needs of the 1990s and, particularly, for a

world in which world oil and coal prices would stay very low?

Mr Parkinson said a generation of pressurized water reactors, six built one after the other, the same technology, still offered a sensible and sure way of meeting that energy obligation.

As a result of the customer having an obligation to buy electricity from nuclear generation, they would be in a privileged position, which meant that this particular aspect of generation would have to be regulated.

Mr Stanley Orme (Salford East, Lab) asked why Mr Parkinson giving a guarantee for nuclear power but not guaranteeing that the British coal industry would be protected. "This could spell the death knell for the British coal industry."

Mr Parkinson said Mr Orme was being defeatist. The Government had invested nearly £5 billion in the coal industry since 1979. The industry was responding and was capable of facing up to competition without the protection from this that Mr Orme demanded.

Sir Ian Lloyd (Havant, C), chairman of the select committee on energy, said it had been disclosed to the committee that there were profound disagreements on the structure, consequences and objectives of privatization.

Mr Parkinson said that he would take the conclusions of the select committee into account. Between now and the time that the Bill was introduced much detail had to be considered and the committee could make a real contribution to taking those decisions. But the central structure was one which the Government intended to legislate.



Mr Cecil Parkinson, who announced to the Commons the sale of Lord Marshall's empire

Business in Parliament next week

The main business in the House of Commons next week will be: Monday: Debates on Opposition motions on the situation in South Africa, and on British science.

Tuesday: Motions on social security orders and regulations. Motion on the Appropriation (Northern Ireland) Order.

Wednesday: Debate on Welsh affairs.

Thursday: Debate on the Royal Navy.

Friday: Private members' motions.

The main business in the House of Lords will be: Monday: Local Government Bill, third reading.

Tuesday: Copyright, Designs and Patents Bill, report, third day.

Wednesday: Debate on the power of the executive of the Government.

Thursday: Social Security Bill, report.

Friday: Immigration Bill, second reading.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Debate on private member's motion on organ transplant/titration procedures.

Lords (11): Public Utility Transfers and Water Charges Bill, second reading. Debate on Christian religious education in schools.

Botha clampdown is condemned

Mrs Margaret Thatcher condemned during question time the latest moves by President Botha to suppress free argument and debate in South Africa. At the same time, she again rejected a call from Mr Neil Kinnock, the Leader of the Opposition, for sanctions against Pretoria.

Mr Kinnock: If the banning of organizations completely dedicated to securing peaceful change in South Africa does not make the Prime Minister stop her pathetic appeasement of apartheid, what will?

Mrs Thatcher said that the Government did not appease apartheid in any way. It spent considerable sums of money in helping black South Africans to get the education that they would otherwise miss.

"I wish to make quite clear that I condemn the latest moves by President Botha to suppress free argument and debate. It will be a great setback to the possibility of peaceful negotiations."

"But the application of universal sanctions would not improve things. It would only make worse a difficult situation."

Mr Kinnock said that Mrs Thatcher's words were mocked by the Botha regime and in contempt by those who were victims of it. "It is not plain to everyone that her words deserve that contempt and actually



Mr Kinnock: Renewed demand for sanctions

encourage further repression by those in charge of apartheid?"

When Archbishop Desmond Tutu said that he thought that South Africa was heading for war and the Foreign Secretary (Sir Geoffrey Howe) said that he believed that the latest bannings made violence more likely, why did Mrs Thatcher not go to the United Nations Security Council and press for comprehensive sanctions?

Mrs Thatcher: You do not make a very difficult situation any easier by adding to it starvation and poverty on the part of those involved.

Thatcher mourns UDR deaths

It was a tragedy that two more members of the Ulster Defence Regiment were killed last night, bringing the number of the security services killed in Northern Ireland this year to six on top of the twenty-seven killed last year. Mrs Margaret Thatcher said at question time.

"I hope that any of those who seek to undermine or criticize the security services will remember the meretricious attacks to which they are subject and be thankful for the work they do."

She was replying to Mr Robert G. Hughes (Harrow West, C), who asked her to join with him in condemning the murder of the two UDR members and the return of terror tactics to the centre of Belfast.

If foreign governments wanted to look at security services and security in Northern Ireland, in addition they ought to look at the use of the bomb-to-kill policy of republican terrorists.

Mr Kenneth Maginnis (Fermanagh and South Tyrone, OUP) asked if she recalled how, in the wake of the Enniskillen tragedy, Mr Seamus Mallon (Newry and Armagh, SDLP) had urged that no one should use the terrible suffering of the people there for political purposes.

Did she believe that that same restraint should now be shown in relation to the tragic shooting in Angharadh last Sunday? "It is unjust, unhelpful and undesirable for Cardinal Tomas O Fiaich to preach from his

N IRELAND

pulpit that that incident was murder."

Mrs Thatcher: Northern Ireland has suffered a very great deal of violence and it has continued. Yes, there have been individual tragedies.

Our task, and it should be the same task on both sides of the border, should be to do everything we can to increase the security and reduce the violence.

It is aimed not only at Northern Ireland. It is fundamentally aimed at the future of democracy in the Republic of Ireland as well.

The Rev Ian Paisley (North Antrim, DUP) asked her to bear in mind what happened in Belfast last night.

Did she appreciate how he felt today? One of those young men was a member of his church, engaged to a young lady, also a member of his church. "The last time I spoke to them was to arrange their marriage." The other young man murdered last night was from the same district.

Could she have a word with Mr Tom King (Secretary of State for Northern Ireland) about the circumstances of this killing? A hearing had obliterated the opportunity for the patrol to see what was happening.

Mrs Thatcher: Yes. We do understand how he feels and we

may rest assured that we all feel the same way and must express our sympathy to the families of those people and also to the families of those who were injured.

I have heard about the boarding and the matter is being thoroughly investigated. There would be an early conference on cross-border security in Ireland. Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said, but added that there might have been some misunderstanding regarding a future meeting between the Commissioner of the Garda and the Chief Constable of the RUC. He intended, he said, during questions, to resolve this at the earliest moment.

He said earlier that the threat to security in Northern Ireland remained high, but the courageous and determined efforts of the security forces were continuing to yield results.

Since he last spoke to the House in January, three members of the Ulster Defence Regiment and one civilian had died. So far this year, 34 people had been charged with serious offences and 22 weapons, 63,000 rounds of ammunition and 392 lbs of explosives had been recovered in Northern Ireland.

In addition the Garda Síochána had made a number of significant finds of arms and ammunition.

Mr King made clear during his exchanges that he felt the time had come to bring to a conclusion the controversy

surrounding Mr John Stalker and his inquiry into the alleged "shoot to kill" policy of the RUC.

"I feel now it is necessary to bring these matters to a conclusion," he said.

Mr Robert Clay (Sunderland North, Lab) opened the exchanges when he asked how the Secretary of State could claim any credibility for disciplinary proceedings when senior officers who had perverted the course of justice were still in command.

Given that the E4A unit was responsible for murder - (loud protests) - would he suspend from duty the man described by Mr Stalker as a senior police officer with a blemish on his record who had set up E4A, Assistant Chief Constable Trevor Forbes, head of Northern Ireland Special Branch.

Mr King replied that what he could hear of Mr Clay's question sounded like a farago of stories gathered from the press for which he was not sure how much authenticity could be claimed. "I do not accept the original premise of his question."

Mr Charles Kelly (Chief Constable of Staffordshire, inquiring into RUC officers of chief superintendent rank and below) and his team had already started work in the province.

Senior ranks were a matter for the Police Authority of Northern Ireland. Sir Philip Myers (Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary) was already in touch with them.

Apology by Alton Bill supporters

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

Supporters of Mr David Alton's Abortion (Amendment) Bill which has been forced to issue an unqualified apology to a Tory MP after sending letters to churches in his constituency suggesting he planned to wreck the Bill by filibustering.

Mr David Harris, MP for St Ives, protested furiously to the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children after he began to receive irate letters from his constituents.

SPUC at first refused to back down, but relented after Mr Harris consulted the Commons authorities and threatened to raise the matter on the floor of the House.

Mrs Phyllis Bowman, national director of SPUC, has now written to Mr Harris admitting: "I realize that we have wronged you and I am genuinely very sorry." She promised to place notices in the local newspapers.

Mr Harris, who favours a tightening of the abortion laws, has been nominated for a standing committee to examine Mr Andrew Mackay's Licen-

Earlier pay reports promised

Much of the following report of a Commons debate on a motion that House should take note of the White Paper on Government expenditure plans for 1988-89 to 1990-91 appeared in later editions yesterday.

The Government has decided that reviews of the pay of public servants, including nurses, will be held earlier in the year in future. Mr John Major, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, told MPs. He said that it would remove the uncertainty from health authorities in planning their expenditure.

This year, the review-body reports, and government decisions on them, are expected in April.

Mr Major, in moving the motion, said that he hoped that in future the review bodies would be able to submit their reports in time for decisions on them by, at the latest, mid-February. This new timetable would affect the reports of all review bodies.

Mr Gordon Brown, an Opposition Treasury spokesman, said that Mr Major's speech contained no answer to the public expenditure question that concerned the whole na-



Mr Major: Decision will remove uncertainty

tion, the underfunding of the NHS.

"No Chancellor has faced his Budget with so much money but with views which are so out of touch with the decent instincts of the people."

For the Government, the NHS crisis was a new opportunity, with an agenda to push more and more patients into the private sector and to take private profit right to the heart of the NHS - the one great public service which had so far resisted the Government's obsession with privatization.

The NHS was to be consid-

ered for privatization, not because it was inefficient, not because the private sector could offer a better deal, but simply because it was there, next in line.

Mr Terence Higgins (Worthing, C), chairman of the Treasury select committee, said that it would be premature for health authorities to be looking for savings in other parts of the health service until the announcement of the nurses' pay award.

"Nothing is more inefficient than closing wards, where overheads continue and the savings you make are very small." It was a very powerful argument that when the matter was finally decided, the full amount of the funding should come from the reserves and not from savings elsewhere in the health service.

Mr Giles Radice (Durham North, Lab) said that money was running out of Mr Lawson's ears and the Government had the money - and more - to begin to help to solve the NHS crisis, but it refused to do so.

Increased spending could be financed by growth, rather than borrowing or taxation, and the great advantage would be that it would boost the education bud-

get, allow health service spending to increase more in line with costs and changing needs, and increase investment in the infrastructure.

Mr Ardy Kirkwood (Roxburgh and Berwickshire, L) said that to move away from a tax-based NHS would lead inevitably to a two-tier system. A system designed for the poor would inevitably become a poor system.

Mr Richard Alexander (Newark, C) asked if the Government accepted wage awards in the NHS, they should be directly funded by the taxpayer.

Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark (Birmingham, Selby Oak, C) said that spending on the NHS had been vastly increased over the years, but still not enough was being spent. "People in high places get giving these figures as though they act as some kind of Chinese good-luck charm and those people with complaints will go away."

An Opposition amendment calling, among other things, for extra provision to end the NHS funding crisis was rejected by 327 votes to 220 - Government majority, 107. The Government motion was agreed in.

Video amendment is withdrawn

The Government could not accept an Opposition amendment that would make it legal for people to tape films and other copyright material screened on television on to video recorders, Lord Beaverbrook, a Government whip, said during a debate in the House of Lords.

For the Opposition, Lord Martin of Sharnbrook moved the amendment on the second day of the report stage of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Bill.

He said that it would at least allow people to tape such programmes for private and domestic purposes with a clear conscience.

The amendment had nothing to do with a levy on blank tapes, which the Government had rejected.

It was to do with the type of taping done in almost every home without people feeling that they were doing something illegal.

Lord Beaverbrook replied that home taping of a sports programme was legal, but taping of a film, for instance, which was

protected by a copyright, was not.

The amendment would allow people to build up a library of programmes that they had recorded on tape at home.

This was contrary to the Government's obligations under the Berne convention which could not accept the amendment.

Lord Martin said that the Government appeared to have changed its view of the Berne convention as the amendment did not seem to breach it.

The amendment was withdrawn.

A Government amendment was approved redefining the way an artist could assert his "moral rights".

Correction In the Lords debate on the White Paper, DTT - the department for Enterprise (report, later editions, February 20), Lord Joseph's remarks should have been "We are to be prosperous we need more millionaires and more bankrupts".

Thatcher opting for mixture of NHS and private care

Radical proposals to set up health authorities and to allow publicly funded financing organizations to buy and manage health care are being considered by the Prime Minister in her review of health service funding.

If adopted, the plans, from the Centre for Policy Studies, the influential Conservative think tank, would change the face of health care, with a greater mix of private and National Health Service care. For the first time, funding would be split from provision and patients would choose their GP from glossy brochures.

Basic health care would be free, but people would be able to pay for optional extras such as cosmetic surgery.

The system would still operate as a health service funded from general taxation, free at the point of need, but patients would have the right to opt out of the scheme and seek private care if they were prepared to pay more.

Health service and private hospitals would compete in a free market to provide services under contract to finance bodies, called Managed Health Care.

Organizations (MHCs), family doctors and hospital doctors would have less autonomy and would be subject to medical audit and equality control.

About 500 MHCs would be set up throughout the country containing the present roles of family practitioner communities, which now contract out to GPs to provide services, and the district health authorities, which fund and manage services.

Each MHC would have at least 100,000 patients on its list but would contract out primary care to GPs. The bodies would be allocated a variable annual capitation fee by the Government for every patient who decided to register with the MHC.

Patients would be able to choose their MHC and their GP but would have no choice over consultants. They could opt to wait to have an operation done locally or travel further for quicker treatment.

The MHC would also hold contracts with hospitals to provide a fixed number of bed days a year for certain specialties. For example, the MHC might have a contract with two hospitals to provide hip operations and two hos-

pitals for mastectomies.

The MHCs would be able to purchase services from either the public or private sector from any part of the country under an internal market system. Under the system patients would travel with their GP wherever they were treated. The MHC would be responsible for providing their care, only funding it.

Dr Michael Goldsmith, a leading British expert on health maintenance organizations (HMOs) and Mr David Willets, the centre's director and former member of the policy unit at Downing Street, are the authors of the centre's report.

"Health maintenance organizations have reduced hospitalization costs in America by 25 per cent," Dr Goldsmith said yesterday.

Managed Health Care: A New System for a Better Health Service (Centre for Policy Studies, 8 Wilfred Street, London SW1E 6PL).

Financial unit to be set up for hospitals

The Government is to establish an income-generating unit to help health authorities to raise funds for patient services.

Mr John Moore, Secretary of State for Social Services, said the authorities should raise at least £20 million this year from commercial ventures, rising to £70 million within three years.

The announcement came as Cambridge Health Authority signed an agreement to set up a shopping mall at Addenbrookes hospital with BAA, formerly the British Airports Authority. The mall is expected to make more than £100,000 a year.

The government unit, to be headed by Mr Ron Kerr, district general manager of North Hertfordshire Health Authority, will advise authorities on making the best use of commercial income.

Mr Moore told the Manchester Business School last night: "I regard this unit as a special placement in our plans to help authorities generate more money."

The move coincides with legislation going through Parliament to allow hospitals to make profits from clinical and non-clinical services. Several hospitals have set up shops, put up advertising hoardings, and are raising money from the sale of baby photographs.

Waiting game for Jaguar in US



By Daniel Ward, Motor Industry Correspondent

Buying a Jaguar requires more than mere money. It also demands unlimited patience. At Long Island, New York, the boys will be handed over in just 15 days. In Fort Worth, Texas, would-be owners have to wait up to 30 days before their \$44,000 vehicle is delivered.

Captains of British industry can expect a delay of at least nine months for a £28,000 Jaguar or Daimler - a sprightly service compared with Singapore's, where dealers have three-year waiting lists.

The reluctance of Americans to wait for their luxury cars is one reason for yesterday's shipment of a record 1,100.

As the Coventry-built cars (above) were loaded on to a ship at Southampton docks, Mr Alan Clark, Minister for Trade, said: "Jaguar's contribution to this country's balance of payments is significant and this shipment alone is worth about \$50 million at current showroom prices."

Jaguar has so far emerged largely unscathed from a sharp decline in luxury car sales in the US.

In December and January, Porsche sales more than halved and BMW and Mercedes suffered a 33 per cent drop in sales compared with last year, while demand for Jaguars improved by 5 per

cent. Since last autumn, the delivery time for a Jaguar in New York has dropped from 60 to 15 days, and in Texas, from 90 to 30 days.

Mr Bob Dover, Jaguar's manufacturing director, said yesterday: "This is the first time we have exceeded a shipment of 1,000 cars to America and it reflects the strength of demand for our cars."

"The level of inquiries and orders at our dealers continues to be strong and this year we plan to sell 25,000 cars in America, 10 per cent more than in 1987."

(Photograph: Harry Kerr)

Greenham Common protests

Court ruling may quash convictions

By Paul Valley

Hundreds of women protesters who have been jailed or fined for offences at the Greenham Common cruise missile base, in Berkshire, in the past seven years may have convictions quashed, after a crown court decision yesterday.

Judge Lait ruled at Reading that the conviction of two protesters must be set aside because Mr Michael Heseltine, as Secretary of State for Defence in 1985, had exceeded his powers in drawing up some of the by-laws covering common land around the Royal Air Force base.

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament said later that it was advising thousands of convicted protesters that the precedent could give them grounds for claims of wrongful arrest, conviction and, in many cases, imprisonment.

Mr Antony Dingle, counsel for the Ministry of Defence, said after the hearing that it was likely to appeal.

The decision comes after more than a year of legal arguments which began when Miss Georgina Smith and Miss Jean Hutchinson were convicted of trespass at Newbury Magistrates' Court in September 1986.

The women lodged an appeal at Reading Crown Court but the judge refused to hear it after a submission by the Ministry of Defence that he did not have jurisdiction.

The case was then heard in the High Court and, on appeal, by the House of Lords, which ruled last month that the judge at Reading should have heard the case in the first place.

Judge Lait gave his deferred judgement yesterday, in which he ruled that the by-laws were invalid. He overturned the convictions and awarded costs to the women.

The judge found that the

Enabling Act, under which the by-laws were made, had a clear provision for the preservation of the rights of commoners on common land.

"The Secretary of State, in making these by-laws, failed to take proper account of the rights of commoners so I find these by-laws are invalid," he said.

It is estimated that up to 5,000 people have been convicted of offences at Greenham Common since the protests began in 1981 and women set up permanent camps around the nine-mile perimeter fence. Judge Lait's decision could set a precedent for those convicted of trespass, damage to the fence and illegally placing items on the fence.

Miss Rebecca Johnson, vice-chairman of CND, who lived at Greenham Common for five years, said: "The vast majority of women convicted recently were charged with trespass or criminal damage to the fence. We will be advising them to sue for wrongful arrest and conviction. Those who were imprisoned for refusing to pay the fines should be eligible for compensation."

She said compensation would be substantial in the case of women such as Anne Francis, a vicar's wife, from Wales, who was sentenced to 12 months in jail for refusing to pay a fine.

The ruling was greeted with jubilation at the camps around the Greenham Common base, which houses 96 American missiles. One woman said: "This is an historic ruling. It means all the women who have been convicted, fined and jailed for trespass were unjustly dealt with."

"The compensation could amount to millions and hundreds of other cases awaiting trial at Newbury Magistrates' Court will probably now be dropped. It's great news."

Law lords' ruling sinks salvage case

A tale of three men in a boat, who unwittingly launched themselves into legal history, ended in the House of Lords yesterday.

The law lords ruled that, despite the efforts of the three men and two friends on shore in saving a runaway Thames pleasure boat from sinking, they were not entitled to a salvage award.

The law lords held that maritime salvage rights were not applicable to vessels rescued in rivers.

The saga, which has been heard by an Admiralty judge, three Court of Appeal judges, including Lord Donaldson of Lynton, Master of the Rolls, and the five law lords, began at about midnight on September 14, 1984.

Three members of the De Montfort Island Bohemians Club, returning to the main shore in their own ferry, saw the river trip of darkness, unmanned out of the darkness, drifting towards Reading Bridge and the weir beyond.

The men on the ferry and two fellow Bohemians on shore went to the rescue and, but for their efforts, the boat, called the Goring, would probably have sunk.

When they sought a reward for their efforts, the owners

refused to pay. So began a legal action with far-reaching implications for salvage law.

In the Admiralty Court, Mr Justice Sheen, a wacko expert on maritime law, ruled that the Bohemians - Arthur Mullins, of Goring Heath, Oxfordshire; Michael Mullins, Thomas Ward, Geoffrey Young, and Bernard Young, all of Reading, Berkshire - were legally entitled to claim salvage rights.

In the Court of Appeal his decision was reversed. By a two-to-one majority, the court ruled that the owners of the Goring were not liable to pay salvage because the rescue took place in non-tidal waters.

Yesterday, Lords Bridge of Harwich, Fraser of Tullybelton, Brandon of Oakbrook, Ackner, and Oliver of Aynhoe were unanimous in upholding that decision.

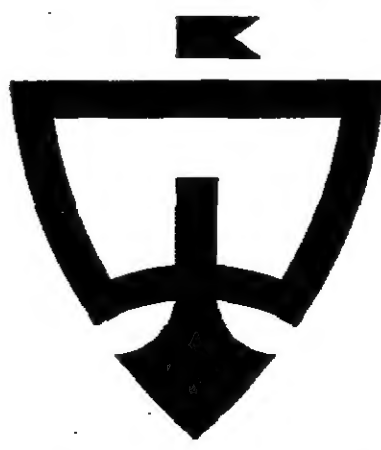
After examining laws dating back hundreds of years, Lord Brandon - a former Admiralty Court judge - said that, without a change in the law, salvage could not be claimed for a rescue in non-tidal waters.

The defeated Bohemians' sole satisfaction is having the lengthy case in the annals of English maritime law.

Law Report, page 28

Surprising news for VW on March 10th.

Our preliminary results for 1987 will be published on Thursday, March 10th. You may find them mildly surprising too.



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Doctors' role urged to cut waste of aid in negligence cases

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Doctors' role in legal aid panels to stop public funds being drained by needless medical negligence actions, according to a study based on 100 cases in the West Midlands.

Much time and money are spent on cases that should never have started, the authors of the study say. Legal aid panels are currently composed of lawyers.

Dr Clifford Hawkins, of Birmingham's Law Society, postulates that legal aid panels should be made up of doctors, solicitors and lay members. The Health Authority, which funds the study, says that the study is the first to be carried out in the West Midlands.

At the end of the study, 75 per cent of the actions had been withdrawn, 12 settled out of court and one was lost at court by the plaintiff. Fourteen were pending and, of

those, nine were likely to reach court on charges of negligence.

Nearly 40 per cent of the cases were withdrawn because the report of the independent expert showed the condition was due to natural causes, the researchers found. In an avoidable risk, and sometimes patients only, found that out for the first time during proceedings.

Such cases generated a large amount of time, money and trouble in extensive correspondence and gathering of records and reports. Many of the claims, hardly seen in justice, such as an endovascular catheter, resulted in a file containing 100 letters and 126 pages of writing before the case is withdrawn.

One such case, filed in 1984, concerned a scar on a woman's buttock that arose from a pressure sore contracted when an epidural anaesthetic was given, they say.

Such cases direct attention and energy from more deserving ones, the authors say. The apparent case for obtaining

legal aid for trivial cases is surprising.

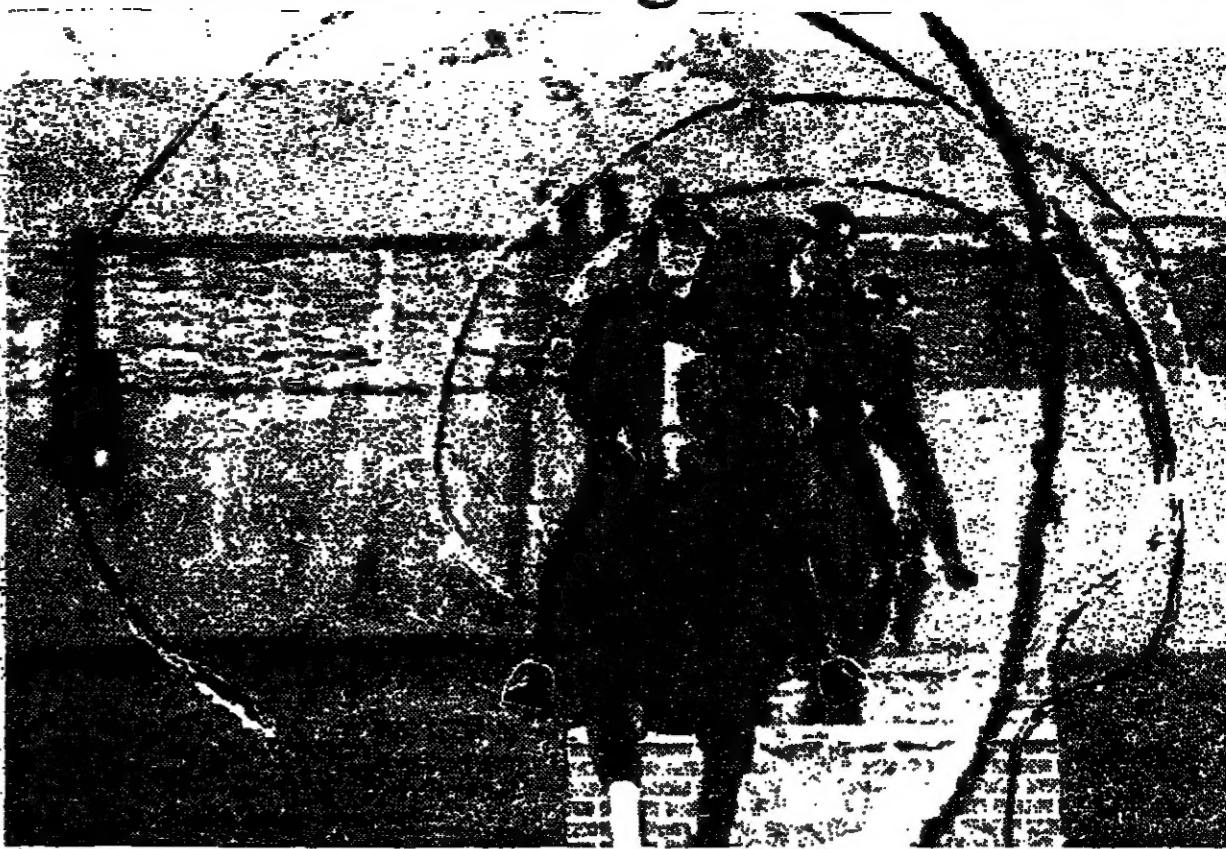
They say that much of the frustration suffered by patients and worry experienced by doctors could be avoided by using a conciliatory procedure.

In any case, a doctor should sit on the legal aid panel to advise medical issues arising out of omissions from medical reports supportive of the applicant. That would ensure that cases due to natural causes or to an inherent risk of treatment could be excluded and expenditure on unnecessary cases be avoided.

In the meantime, the researchers urge solicitors acting for plaintiffs to get an independent medical opinion as soon as possible after legal aid has been granted, unless the case is an obvious one, so that the doctor may act as an adviser or arbitrator.

More use should also be made of consent forms which patients have to sign: these could list post-operative complications.

Police ride the gauntlet of fire



Riders from the Metropolitan Police put their mounts through fiery paces yesterday in preparation for the Paris International Showjumping Championships and World Cup next month. Woman Police Constable Wendy Jackson leads PC Brian Jenks and PC Phil Harding in the activity ride, an eight-minute routine ending with bareback riding. Mme Giscard d'Estaing, president of the championships, invited the team to Paris after seeing it perform. Its

members, who normally patrol London streets, are graduates of the Mounted Branch Training Establishment at Imber Court, East Molesey, Surrey.

(Photograph: Peter Trivelpy)

Overpaid benefits of £87m not recovered

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

The Department of Health and Social Security has not recovered a total of £87 million in overpaid benefits, the Commons Public Accounts Committee reported yesterday.

Seven per cent of the debt has been outstanding for more than six years. Recovery of debts of more than £3,000 was "extremely slow", the all-party group of MPs said.

The committee acknowledged the difficulty of recovering overpayments from the poor. However, it was concerned at the level of debt and expected the DHSS to take remedial action.

Elsewhere in its report, the committee concluded that the excessive payments of benefits resulting from fraud, mistaken claims or errors in assessment probably amounted to millions of pounds a year. The National Audit Office had calculated that detected overpayments could be at least £55 million annually.

A 2.2 per cent random sample of annual payments disclosed errors of 10.3 per cent in the number of supplementary benefit payments and 1.9 per cent in contributory benefit payments.

The checks did not calculate the amount of money involved. Further investigation by audit staff showed many errors were overlooked and that "the actual level of error was greater than disclosed".

The DHSS had no centrally recorded information on the level of incorrect payments. The committee said collection of such information was essential.

Committee of Public Accounts: Incomplete Payments of Social Security Benefits (Stationery Office: £3.20).

Fire chief challenged at Tube inquiry

A fire officer, in charge of fighting the King's Cross Underground blaze agreed yesterday that if he had been told of a safe route into the station on the night of the disaster, he would have given the information "high priority".

Deputy Assistant Chief Officer John Wilson, was replying to questions challenging an answer he gave the previous day that if he had known of the route he would have put it "to the back of my mind at the time".

The inquiry into the disaster has been

told that Assistant Divisional Officer Clifford Shore, who handed over control nearly 30 minutes after the ticket hall had been engulfed by fire, killing 31 people, did not mention the existence of an entrance from the King's Cross Midland station.

The entrance, which was free from smoke, led to the Tube station below the blazing escalators. Mr Shore had known of its existence but did not know exactly where it led to in the Tube station, the inquiry has been told.

Mr Roger Henderson, QC, counsel to

the inquiry, asked yesterday whether such information, had it been given to him, would have not deserved high priority, "and would have been given high priority by you". Mr Wilson replied: "I have to agree".

Asked whether he would have made use of information an exploration of the subway would have yielded, Mr Wilson said: "It would certainly have been additional and it would have been important on the night".

The hearing continues today.

Call to help private tenants

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

The Government must provide greater financial assistance to encourage a revival of the private rented sector, a building society chief said.

Mr Tim Melville-Ross, chief executive of the Nationwide Anglia Building Society, told a conference in London on the Housing Bill, now at committee stage, that the Government's strategy lacked three vital elements.

The first was the need for sufficient financial encouragement to the private sector to provide rented housing. That could be either in the form of capital grants paid by the Housing Corporation or a new form of tax-exempt investment bond to channel funds into private rented housing.

There was also a need for a "significantly more generous housing benefit regime" to help those on modest incomes meet the higher rents payable as a result of the Government's policy.

The third element was the need to ensure that public funds for housing were channelled in the right direction. That meant a mechanism for approving private sector landlords before they became eligible for grant aid.

Weekend food prices Fresh fish offer the best buys

Fresh fish supplies are better this week and prices of many popular varieties are down. The average price of large cod fillets at £2.02, for instance, is 7p cheaper.

Codling, haddock, coley and dab are down 3p-5p a lb. Plaice is down about 4p to an average £2.27 and is one of the best buys. Dover sole is expensive, up about 21p, now between £2.70 and £3.50.

The oily fish, mackerel 70p and sprats 60p, are scarce but there is an abundance of good quality herring at about 70p. Skate and huss are back on the slabs retailing at £2.40 and £2.20 respectively.

There is an excellent selection of shellfish, including shell-on prawns at £2.20 a lb, and cockles, mussels and whelks at £1.20 a pint.

Pork, always an economical buy, is particularly good value. Loin and rib chops and boneless shoulder are all down in price. For the discerning there is plenty of trimmed leg and loin steaks between 70p and £1 each.

Fillet of pork is about £2.58 a lb but for those who like crackling there is a leg at an average of £1.03. Some shops are selling boneless chops coated with herbs and spices at about a £1 each. Hand of pork costs about 49p a lb.

Beef prices generally are on an upward trend. Rump steak is up 4p-8p a lb and sirloin steak, 3p-5p a lb. However, topside and silverside is only fractionally more expensive now, between £1.89 and £2.88 a lb.

Home-produced lamb is again a little cheaper with fillet end of leg, loin and best end chops down in price. The average price of whole leg is £1.70 and that is excellent value for the time of year. Stewing lamb at 98p a lb and neck fillets at £1.80 are recommended.

Meat and poultry on

promotion in shops and supermarkets include Sainsbury's beef topside and silverside at £1.98, cold shoulder of lamb 88p, and loin chops £1.18. Marks & Spencer prepared turkey joints are down 25p a lb to £2.64.

Tesco sells frozen mini roast chickens at £1.19 each and minced beef at 98p a lb.

Presto has boneless pork chops at £1.78 a lb and home-produced leg of lamb at £1.72. At Asda, home-produced leg of pork costs 69p and pork chops £1.39. Dewhurst: four spare rib chops from £1.18; New Zealand leg of lamb from £1.39. Safeway: New Zealand lamb loin chops £1.38 and fresh pork boneless chops £1.78. B&M: pork spare rib chops 96p; and New Zealand chump chops at £1.29.

There has been no hardship in harvesting winter vegetables, the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Information Bureau says. Carrots at 18p-30p a lb; parsnips 15p-35p; swedes 16p-18p; Brussels sprouts 16p-26p; and cauliflowers 45p-55p each are all best buys.

Tomatoes are of better quality and are 50p-75p a lb due to the better weather in the Canary Islands. Cucumbers are 65p-85p each, and English and Mexican spring onions 40p-45p a bunch.

Plums from the Cape and Chile are the pick of the week. Varieties are Harry Pickstone at 60p-80p a lb and Ruby Nels 55p-70p.

Grapes are plentiful with Don Ben Hanna and Bien Donne 80p-£1.20 and Thompson seedless at 90p-£1.30. Oranges from Morocco, Cyprus, Spain and Jaffa cost from 8p-28p each. The Jaffa Shamouti is particularly sweet and juicy.

English Cox's apples are superb at 50p-65p a lb and there are Conference and Comice pears from 20p-45p.

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Jackson battles for 'dope out of veins, hope in brains'

From Christopher Thomas
Asheville, North Carolina

The Rev Jesse Jackson arrived three hours late, as usual, but 3,000 school pupils were waiting to shriek and stomp. He coaxed them gently at first, then demanded suddenly: "How many of you know somebody of your age who died from drugs?"

There was nervous shuffling through the packed Asheville High School gymnasium and 50 teenagers slowly stood up.

"How many of you know somebody who is in jail because of drugs?" Astonishingly, 500 youngsters rose.

"How many of you know somebody your own age who has contemplated suicide?" One thousand stood. "How many know

someone who has tried drugs?" Everybody took to their feet and teachers gazed at one another, startled. There was a long, tense silence: the entire school was confessing its drug problem.

The Baptist preacher whispered into the microphone: "Stop drugs entering your nose and your veins. Beyond desegregation battles, beyond confrontation, there is another challenge — the quest for quality of life."

He told them that this was the New South, with new opportunities. But what was the point if they were too drunk to walk through the door? What did anything matter, if they did not respect anyone? Why bother having a top teacher if there was no regard for learning? "Get dope out of your

veins and hope into your brains," he pleaded. And then he led them into a thunderous chant: "I am somebody. I am somebody. I respect me. I do not neglect me. I am somebody. Black, brown or white. We are all somebody. Everybody is somebody. My mind is a pearl. I can learn anything with my mind. I am somebody."

In 20 minutes he had come and gone, leaving behind his spell and his powerful message that the old Southern struggles have been replaced by new ones: struggles against drugs, unemployment, poverty and "economic violence". He presents himself as the candidate of the oppressed, the down-trodden and disadvantaged of all colours.

Mr Jackson heads for his chauffeur limousine while a sizeable press entourage makes for a decrepit Nazareth First Baptist Church bus to join his convoy to

the airport. He is off to Winston-Salem, a grimy industrial town, to talk to an audience of thousands of mostly black college students.

He is storming through the South, financed mostly by the meagre offerings of black churches.

His aides insist that he is attracting substantially more Southern white support than in his 1984 campaign, when he carried Louisiana, Virginia, South Carolina and Mississippi, as well as Washington DC, which is predominantly black.

The message then was largely on race — "marching from the out-race — the White House" — but this time it is moral and economic, with the focus on farmers driven from the land, workers made jobless by corporate greed, families torn apart by drugs, people who cannot afford medical insurance.

The evidence of substantial support from Southern whites is so far not convincing. There are more whites at his rallies than in 1984, when there were hardly any, but they are invariably a small minor-

ity. A surprisingly strong level of Northern white support will probably not be reflected in the Dixie states, which hold their primaries in the mammoth "Super Tuesday" poll of Southern and border states on March 8.

But he will be a powerful force. He is likely to win more than 90 per cent of the black vote and, at best, 10 per cent of the white vote. That would give him at least 25 per cent of the Democratic vote in many "Super Tuesday" states.

If the white vote splits, he could carry every state except Tennessee, the home state of Senator Albert Gore. He is weakest in Texas and Florida, the two largest states, which have a smaller proportion of blacks than most of the other "Super Tuesday" states.

Although nobody seriously be-

lieves that Mr Jackson can win the Democratic presidential nomination, he could conceivably go into the summer with more delegates than anyone else, making him the broker in a brokered convention. That, his aides admit, is the goal.

What would he offer a candidate in return for his support? In a brief interview between campaign stops he implied that he would not be interested in the vice-presidency, even in the unlikely event that he would be offered it.

His real objective, it seems, would be to have a decisive influence over the Democratic agenda, with greater emphasis on social programmes which would be paid for by defence cuts and higher corporate taxes.

Spectrum, page 12

Round-up on West Bank as Middle East mission gets under way

Shultz begins uphill search for peace deal

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

Mr George Shultz, the American Secretary of State, arrived here yesterday on what seemed like a mission impossible to solve the 40-year-old Arab-Israeli conflict in four days and five nights of feverish diplomatic activity.

Having been given sceptical Soviet approval for his efforts to bring the various sides together, Mr Shultz is to use Israel as a base for day trips to Damascus, Cairo and Amman, although his main problem will be to persuade the Government here to agree on a joint negotiating position. He has a retinue of 160 to help him.

Mr Shultz sounded an optimistic note on arrival. "I am convinced that I am bringing with me a workable proposal," he said. "Recent events have underscored a clear fact. The status quo in the region is not a stable option for any of the parties. At the same time the status quo must not be changed in a way that would endanger Israel's security."

"Our objective is to help Israel and its neighbours achieve peace and security and to help Palestinians achieve their legitimate rights."

To coincide with his visit thousands of supporters of the various political positions plan to take to the streets in rival demonstrations, which could tax the overstretched police force.

Mr Shimon Peres, the Foreign Minister, met Mr Shultz at the airport and confirmed he was ready to take part in the kind of accelerated peace process the Americans are trying to start.

This would include an international "event" to start negotiations in April or May, the establishment of autonomy in the occupied territories during the summer and talks on a permanent solution in December. At least three working parties inside the Foreign Ministry have been doing the necessary preparation for implementing this timetable.

Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister, who has his first round of talks with Mr Shultz today, has had two working parties preparing for the visit in isolation from the Foreign Ministry. Mr Yossi Ben-Aharon, Director-General of the Prime Minister's office, said: "We are not partners in this matter. There



Israeli soldiers arresting a Palestinian, one of scores held after the lynching of a supposed Israeli spy on the West Bank.

has been no co-operation of any kind."

In talks with the Prime Minister, Mr Shultz will explore how quickly autonomy can be granted to the territories, including early elec-

tions for local councils. He will also be able to promise substantial American financial aid for the refugee camps. Mr Shultz will probably concentrate on autonomy during his talks in Israel.

Reagan refuses to fault Israeli policy

From Michael Binyon, Washington

As Mr George Shultz arrived in Israel, President Reagan was insisting that much of the violence in the occupied territories was instigated from outside.

In a nationally televised press conference on Wednesday, he refused to condemn the harsh measures used by the Israelis to counter Palestinian protests.

"We have spoken to the Government there and to the Palestinian leadership," he said. "There is evidence that these riots are not spontaneous and home-grown... We have had intimations that certain people, outsiders suspected of being terrorists, (are) going in and stirring up trouble and encouraging violence."

He would not specify whether he referred to the Palestinian Liberation Organization, the Russians, or any other group, saying security considerations prevented him from going into detail.

In reply to sharply worded questions about his outspoken comments on human rights in the Soviet Union and Nicaragua and his silence on the treatment of Palestinians, Mr Reagan insisted: "We don't support that kind of thing." He said Mr Shultz would be talking to all parties during his visit to the Middle East.

He also suggested that he

would meet Palestinian representatives. The US was now exploring recent statements by Mr Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader, suggesting that he would accept United Nations resolutions recognizing Israel's right to exist.

But Mr Reagan made it clear that Israel's security would remain paramount. He also rejected criticism of the presence in Lebanon of Colonel William Higgins, the US Marine officer kidnapped while serving with the United Nations forces there.

Mr Reagan's refusal to take a strong stand on the Middle East as the Secretary of State began his delicate mission also coincided with a fierce battle in the US press for the hearts and loyalties of anguished American Jewry.

Mr Abba Eban, the former Israeli Foreign Minister, welcomed Mr Shultz's visit on the eve of his arrival with an impassioned plea in *The New York Times* for an end to Israeli military occupation of all the West Bank and Gaza.

Mr Ariel Sharon, the hardline former Defence Minister, argued in *The Wall Street Journal* that it would be best for America not to get involved, and said the clashes in the occupied territories were no worse than urban disturbances that have flared up in the US over the years.

Iraqi pardon for bribe case Briton

President Saddam Hussein of Iraq has pardoned a British businessman who has served eight years of a life sentence for bribing Iraqi officials, the Foreign Office said yesterday. (Our Foreign Staff writes). The pardon for John Smith, aged 43, of Surrey, was finalized on Wednesday as President Hussein met the Minister of State at the Foreign Office, Mr David Mellor, who is on a Middle East tour and who also appealed for the release of a second British prisoner, Ian Richter.

In Pakistan, a British teacher, Mr Geoffrey Langland, kidnapped in the North-West Frontier Province, is expected to be freed today. Officials said that he was no longer in the hands of his kidnappers but was with "mediators".

Jakes call to reform Aids case gets 'life'

Prague — On the 40th anniversary of communist rule in Czechoslovakia yesterday, Mr Milos Jakes, the party leader, urged his country to embrace *perestroika* (restructuring) and so follow Moscow's lead (Richard Bassett writes). But he warned against such reforms being interpreted as a revival of the ill-fated 1968 Prague Spring led by Mr Alexander Dubcek.

In his most explicit support for the policies of restructuring and *glasnost* since his appointment in December, Mr Jakes said economic and administrative initiatives would improve the quality of life in Czechoslovakia.

Gulag's millions Defence cost row

Moscow — Twelve million people were incarcerated in Soviet labour camps at the time of Stalin's death in 1953, according to figures provided this week by a Soviet thriller writer who has access to official files (Christopher Walker writes).

The figure, cited by Yulian Semyonov in *Moskovsky Komsomolets*, was widely believed to be the first ever released in the Soviet Union on the population of the vast network of camps which later became known as the "Gulag Archipelago". In a semi-fictionalized account of Stalin's last years, the writer said the figure was given to Stalin in a secret report drawn up in 1951.

The British delegation walked out soon after their first meeting in the current round of talks began yesterday. A government spokesman said that talks might resume today.

Swaggart's trysts

Springfield, Missouri (AP) — US Pentecostal leaders gathered yesterday to deliberate on the fate of the TV evangelist, Mr Jimmy Swaggart, after a prostitute calling herself Debra Murphy, right, said on television on Wednesday that she had performed pornographic acts for him for about a year. "He wanted me to get naked and maybe lay on the bed and pose for him," she said, adding that they never had sexual intercourse and she thought him a pervert.



Secretary of State reveals his hopes

Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, addressed a private session of the Council of Foreign Relations in Washington on February 9, giving a frank outline of his plans for the Middle Eastern diplomatic shuttle which opened when he landed in Israel yesterday. The following extracts from his talk were originally published by the Jerusalem Post. He began where previous negotiations had left off:

There came to be sort of two tracks of discussion. One was, as we said many times and many in Israel said, in the end you have to get into a direct negotiation between Israel and — at least with respect to the West Bank and Gaza — Jordan with a Palestinian part of their delegation.

King Hussein was very uncomfortable with that idea and felt, for various reasons — probably, pretty good reasons — that he couldn't enter such negotiations except in connection with some international conference, or some way of legitimizing the direct negotiations, no doubt referring back in some manner to UN Security Council Resolution 242 and therefore to the United Nations.

On the one hand, when we

talked about direct negotiations, the Jordanians might say — did say — if I entered direct negotiations, where does that take me? We hear the Israelis say, there is no territory to be traded for peace. All of that territory will stay in Israel's hands. And if that's the case, then what's the point of a negotiation?

By the same token, at least many in Israel... will look at who would be at the international conference. Who are the friends of Israel there? And isn't it likely that it will sort of seek some extreme and we'll wind up saying that the answer is that Israel must go back to the 1967 borders?

But both (the Jordanians and the Israelis) looked at these processes and they said: "We don't want to start because of the substance that seems to be inferred by the process. We see the substance is not going to work, as far as we're concerned, and therefore we're stepping into a hole. So we don't want to do that."

The violence on the West Bank and Gaza, which has erupted in the last couple of months, does seem to have had quite an impact on people's thinking (although) not in response to the violence as such.

But maybe we can take the ideas that have been lying around and worked on, and particularly somewhere at least a little progress has been made, rearrange them and find ourselves a new blend of potential substance and potential procedure.

First of all, it seems clear that it's important to do some things on the West Bank and Gaza in a relatively short time-span that can have the potential of making a genuine, sharp change in the conditions of life there — and by that I mean in the political conditions of life, in the extent to which people have more control... (over) how they live their daily lives.

So I think there are a number of things that can be done there, and it is our belief that drawing on things that have been worked on in days past, and adding to them, adapting them, that there are important possibilities that could be worked out in a relatively short space of time. Like, say a six-month period from when the going rang, so to speak, that would, when implemented by a transition authority that would be identified through some kind of electoral process, make the control of life on the West

Bank and Gaza immediately quite different.

Second, that kind of a change, while perhaps welcome, should be welcome, certainly isn't sufficient. And no one would be satisfied until we had come to grips with the final status-type issues. And so... we believe it is important — essential — to set a date certain on which it would be agreed that these negotiations would start; and that that date certain should not be far beyond the end of this six-month period, and precede the actual implementation of what was agreed to during the six months.

So here you have, basically, three substantive things: one dealing with things that can be done quickly; another dealing with the issues of final status; and a third dealing with the inter-relationship between them, a kind of interlocking between these two areas of substance. As we talk with the parties, of course, they want to know more about the details of what you have in mind... and in particular whether there is in this picture the formula of territory for peace, or whether it will go on the basis of Resolution 242.

And the answer to that has to be yes, or you don't start.

THE SUNDAY TIMES



This Sunday: the bizarre dramas of the night Robert Maxwell bought the Mirror Group.

MAXWELL

THE OUTSIDER BY TOM BOWER

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NOW THE REAL TRUTH THIS SUNDAY

5265

Soviet unit packs its missiles and heads home

From John England, Bischofswerda, East Germany

Soviet troops in this quiet country town near Dresden yesterday put their eight SS12 medium-range nuclear missiles on a special train and headed for home in the first of two withdrawals of Russian missiles under the INF Treaty.

The weapons were covered by khaki tarpaulins which were nailed down. One was partly uncovered for "verification" by press photographers a week ahead of the Nato summit meeting in Brussels which will examine further disarmament.

The Russians were sent off in heroic style with a 90-minute farewell programme, including stirring music by Soviet and East German army bands and admiring speeches by two leading women of the local Communist Party, as well as a worker from a machine factory. Their theme was gratitude for Moscow's "contribution to securing peace".

Colonel Vladimir Yankovsky, the unit commander, said it was now up to the West to respond to the Soviet gesture by starting to remove its own medium-range missiles.

Kindergarten children, whose teacher said they had insisted on being present despite falling snow and biting cold, waved small flags of both countries. Workers took a break from their jobs to crowd the railway station's forecourt with their wives and children.

In a smooth joint public relations operation, the East Germans also transported about 150 foreign reporters from East Berlin to Bischofswerda in four coaches, and polite and friendly Soviet staff officers acted as interpreters.

The 185-man Soviet unit, which had been based in woods near the town since May 1984, also shipped out five launchers and four training missiles. Major Vladimir Olyenik, a political officer, said: "The missiles will be taken to a destruction centre in the Soviet Union."

"Our transporters will be removed later and will be turned over to agricultural co-operatives for use on farms. Something like turning swords into ploughshares."

As he spoke, another unit in Waren, about 120 miles north-west of East Berlin, was preparing to move out its 22 SS12 missiles, as well as 12 launchers, seven training

missiles and nine transporters.

(Meanwhile, in Czechoslovakia, more Soviet missiles were being loaded on trains in the north Moravian town of Hranice, bound for destruction depots, Reuter reported the official Ceteka news agency as saying.)

Franz Martin Post, the Bischofswerda kindergarten teacher, said: "The children know what is happening here. We have told them that now we shall be able to spend money on wondrous things than weapons of war."

Herr Paul Nergar, aged 78, who survived the allied destruction of Dresden in February, 1945, said: "I'm glad to see those things go because we've been sitting on a powder keg all the time they've been here."

He added: "Besides, with the Russians camped in the woods I couldn't go mushroom-hunting. The area was off limits for us."

The Soviet soldiers, most of them young national servicemen, also readily admitted that they were glad to be going back to their base in Georgia. "I've enjoyed my duty here," said Private Tadas Savaykis, aged 19. "But home is home."

Lieutenant Oleg Bartosh, aged 22, the commander of a missile crew, would give no details of the targets at which his weapon - with a range of 550 miles - had been aimed. "But, don't worry, we could not have reached Britain," he added.

Lieutenant Bartosh, married, with a daughter aged six months, added: "This is the first step and we are glad to be part of an historic experience. I hope my child will have the chance to live in the 21st century and live in peace."

Senior Soviet officers refused to comment on Western reporters' suggestions that the early withdrawals had been timed to put pressure on the Nato leaders in Brussels. But an East German official said: "If the removal of these missiles will impress upon the West our good faith and lead to further disarmament initiatives, then any such so-called pressure will have been justified."

The Soviet Union has other SS12 missiles based at Königsbrunn, also near Dresden, and at Wokuhl. There are also SS23 missiles at Weissenfels and Jena.

Nato says weapon removal is just propaganda ploy

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

Nato officials were quick to brand the Soviet Union's "goodwill" decision to start removing shorter-range nuclear missiles from Eastern Europe as a propaganda exercise, timed to cause maximum effect a week before heads of government of the alliance hold a summit meeting in Brussels.

The Russians were inviting as much publicity as they could yesterday by allowing Western journalists to witness the craning of the SS12 and SS23 missiles at their bases in East Germany and Czechoslovakia.

Despite the official Nato dismissal of the Soviet move, diplomatic sources admitted that it was "one of Gorbachev's good ideas".

The Soviet leader might even be preparing the ground for an official offer to the Americans to negotiate a "third zero" nuclear deal, the destruction of all short-range tactical battlefield missiles, one West German diplomatic source said yesterday.

"It's obvious that Gorbachev wants us to sit up and take notice of what he's doing, but it's clearly a clever propaganda move," the source said.

According to the inventory declared by the Russians for the INF Treaty, the Soviet Union has 54 SS12 missiles with a range of 550 miles at four bases in East Germany. In the same country there are further 167 SS23 missiles with a range of 312 miles at another seven bases. In Czechoslovakia, there are 166 SS12 missiles at seven bases.

Western diplomatic sources pointed out yesterday that the shorter-range missiles were only being crated up for removal from their East European sites - they were not being destroyed. American inspectors will be able to verify their destruction only after the INF Treaty has been ratified by the US Senate.

A Nato spokesman said yesterday: "The Soviets put these missiles there in the first place and if they wish to make

some goodwill gesture by unilaterally removing them, so much the better."

The Soviet Union first brought the SS12 and SS23 missiles forward into Eastern Europe in retaliation for Nato's deployment of cruise and Pershing 2 missiles.

● BRUSSELS: As Nato prepares for President Reagan's visit to Brussels next week for the Nato summit, an opinion poll conducted in the US for the European Economic Com-

mission (AFP) - General Wolfgang Altenburg, chairman of Nato's military committee, said yesterday that it would be unwise to accept a Soviet proposal to scrap short-range nuclear arms. Talks on conventional and short-range nuclear weapons had to be seen in conjunction with priority for conventional arms.

munty has shown that 70 per cent of Americans support a continued US military presence in Europe (Richard Owen writes).

A quarter of those questioned felt, however, that the US contributed too much to European defence, and EEC officials said that the survey, published yesterday, revealed "a widespread feeling that American ties with Western Europe have waned over the past 10 years". A majority of Americans said that a politically united Europe would give Europe "a stronger voice in world affairs".

But the survey, conducted by the European Commission for Gallup, revealed a woeful ignorance about how Europe actually works. Only a third of those questioned had even heard of the EEC, compared to 45 per cent in a similar poll conducted 15 years ago.

More than half of those questioned said that Western Europe would have to pay more for its own defence. A similar number complained that Europeans did not support the US in its efforts to defeat global terrorism.

Church leaders defy Botha's latest crackdown

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Archbishop Desmond Tutu and other South African church leaders declared yesterday that they would continue to call for the release of detainees and the unbanning of political organizations, as well as for negotiations "with the true leaders of our country to bring about a transfer of power from a minority to all the people".

In a statement issued after a meeting here to consider the implications of Wednesday's government crackdown on black opposition organizations, they proclaimed: "Our mandate to carry out these activities comes from God, and no man and no government will stop us."

Meanwhile, a number of leading anti-apartheid activists of the United Democratic Front were yesterday reported to have gone into hiding to avoid being served by the police with restriction orders issued in terms of the new emergency regulations.

The tightening of the controls has left the conservative and Zulu-dominated Inkatha organization of Chief Mangosuthu Buthe almost completely the only significant black political movement still untouched and free to operate legally.

Brigadier Lena Mallet, the spokesman for the Minister of Law and Order, Mr Adriaan Vlok, said the names of the persons who were being sought would not be made public. He added that 18 restriction or-



Black youths protesting in Johannesburg yesterday against the government crackdown on 18 anti-apartheid organizations.

ders had been signed by President Botha.

Among those already contacted by the police and served with orders are Mrs Albertina Sisulu and Mr Archie Gumede, co-presidents of the UDF, the biggest of the 17 anti-apartheid organizations which

have now been effectively closed down.

Mrs Sisulu, the wife of the jailed African National Congress veteran, Walter Sisulu, is confined to her home in Soweto between the hours of 6pm and 5am and may not leave the district of Johannes-

burg without police permission.

In addition, she may not address any gathering at which 10 or more people are present or take part in any activities of the UDF, the Federation of South African Women, the Soweto Civic

Association or the Soweto Youth Congress, all of which are radical black organizations.

Mrs Sisulu said that she was still consulting her lawyers to see whether the terms of her restriction order pre-

vented her from giving press interviews.

There are no curbs on the movements of Mr Gumede, an elderly black African lawyer, but he is specifically prohibited from talking to the news media and from preparing, compiling or transmitting any matter for publication.

Both Mr Gumede and Mrs Sisulu played little more than

figurehead roles. Other UDF activists known to have been served with restriction orders are Mr A.S. Chetty, chairman of its Natal Midlands branch, Dr Simon Gqubule, vice-president of the South African Council of Churches, Mr Jabu Ngwenya, Mr Derek Jackson, Mr Reggie Olliphant, Mr Willie Hofmeyr and Mr Joe Marks.

Last Wednesday's decree prohibits the UDF, the rival black consciousness-oriented Azanian People's Organization, and 15 other anti-apartheid bodies from "any activity whatsoever" for which prior permission has not been granted by Mr Vlok.

They retain their legal status and are permitted to keep their assets, keep their books up to date and perform other limited administrative functions. But as political organizations, they are finished. In addition, the Congress of South African Trade Unions, the most politically militant labour federation in the country, is prohibited from any form of protest activity not directly related to the pay and working conditions of its members.

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YEARLY PLAN

NATIONAL SAVINGS

Waldheim cancels speech at Anschluss ceremony

By Our Foreign Staff

President Waldheim's planned address at a state ceremony marking Austria's 1938 absorption by Nazi Germany was cancelled yesterday amid the continuing furor over his war record.

Dr Kurt Waldheim's office issued a statement saying that the President, who was found by historians to have eased the way for Nazi atrocities in the Balkans, would instead make a television speech to mark next month's 50th anniversary of the Anschluss.

The decision was made at a meeting when Dr Franz Vranitzky, the Chancellor, Herr Alois Mock, the Vice-Chancellor, and the presidents of both houses of Parliament discussed the issue with Dr Waldheim.

The statement said: "In view of (the television speech) and in the interests of the President's efforts to ensure a harmonious conducting of the commemoration, the President will not speak at the event."

Meanwhile, however, Dr Vranitzky made a veiled call

in a newspaper interview for Dr Waldheim to resign.

Controversy has raged in Austria over the event, which is scheduled for March 11, the date when Chancellor Kurt Schuschnigg was forced from office in 1938. This cleared the way for Hitler's troops to march in the following day and the Anschluss (union) of Austria with the Third Reich.

Two senior Cabinet members - Herr Ferdinand Lacina, the Finance Minister, and Herr Alfred Dallinger, Social Affairs Minister - said shortly before the announcement that they would boycott the ceremony if Dr Waldheim spoke.

Other leading politicians, including members of the conservative People's Party, which backed Dr Waldheim's presidency, have called for it to be cancelled.

Herr Mock, who has been among Dr Waldheim's stoutest defenders against allegations that he lied about his wartime past for 40 years, said later that the President would nevertheless attend the ceremony, which is to be held in

Vienna's old imperial Hofburg Palace. Herr Mock, who leads the People's Party, added that the move to cancel the speech had come from Dr Waldheim himself.

"It is the sincere wish of the President that the events surrounding the commemoration should prove the unity of the Austrian people 50 years after the tragic events," the statement added.

But Dr Vranitzky, in a veiled plea for President Waldheim to resign, said yesterday that the controversy had to end.

The Chancellor told the Bonn daily *Die Welt* that the historians' report clearing Dr Waldheim of direct involvement in Nazi war crimes was not enough.

"I have an urgent and clear plea to the President to do all in his power to clear up the present situation," Dr Vranitzky said. "Austria should not be isolated or identified with those who cling to yesterday."

Dr Vranitzky said Dr Waldheim had not understood that his arguments that no proof

had been found against him would not end the political crisis.

But Dr Waldheim, in an interview in Austria's popular *Kronen Zeitung* yesterday, again rejected calls for his resignation. He said the controversy was getting on his nerves.

Herr Manfred Messerschmidt, a member of the historians' commission, told the *Süddeutsche Zeitung* in Munich that Dr Vranitzky had agreed to finance further probes by a translator into Yugoslav files from Dr Waldheim's wartime unit.

The Socialist Chancellor said his coalition Government was crippled by the two-year-old controversy.

"We need room to manoeuvre in order to carry out our programme. The political space is not there when one subject dominates everything," he said. "This cannot be accepted if we are to avert political damage."

Dr Vranitzky said that, if Dr Waldheim did resign, Parliament could elect an interim President.

Amnesty offer to Tamils



President Jayewardene of Sri Lanka and his wife, Elina, greeting officials after he performed the opening ceremony of the eighth session of Parliament in Colombo yesterday. In his opening address, the President offered an amnesty to Tamil guerrillas in the north and Sinhala rebels in the south if they will give up their arms and return to the democratic fold (Vijitha Yapa writes). The main opposition group, Mrs Sirima Bandaranaike's Sri Lanka Freedom Party, boycotted the opening, as did a small socialist party, the Mahajana Eksath Peramuna. Reports from Morawewa in the northern Trincomalee district yesterday said that five of the 50,000 Indian troops keeping the peace and trying to disarm the Tigers were killed when their vehicle was destroyed by a landmine.

Briton may get bombing retrial

Sydney - A convicted murderer deported to Britain last week after serving 15 years of a life sentence would be given a new trial, should allegations that he was framed by police be proved (Our Correspondent writes).

The Queensland Attorney-General made the announcement after evidence by policemen that a "confession" by James Finch for a firebomb attack on a Brisbane nightclub in 1973 was fabricated.

Finch, aged 43, from London, is seeking a full pardon.

Drugs appeal

Cairo (AFP) - The lawyer for Maureen Paley, aged 49, sentenced to life imprisonment for drug smuggling, has filed an appeal to Egypt's highest criminal tribunal. Paley, from Yarm, Cleveland, has always protested her innocence.

Quebec ruling

Ottawa - Mr André Bessette, who lost his job as Transport Minister over land transactions, has been acquitted by a Quebec jury of fraud, breach of trust and conspiracy.

Wu promoted

Peking (AFP) - China's Foreign Minister, Mr. Wu Xueqian, aged 67, is to leave the post next month to become Deputy Prime Minister.

Envoy named

Paris (AFP) - France has named M Jacques Dupont as its ambassador to South Africa. He replaces M Pierre Boyer, who has retired.

Flood toll

Jakarta (AFP) - Nine villagers were killed by floods and landslides after monsoon rains on the Indonesian island of Sumatra.

Tourist jailed

Jakarta (AFP) - A Spanish tourist was jailed by an Indonesian court for six and a half years for drug trafficking.

Gurkhas shot

Darjeeling (Reuters) - Security forces shot dead six Gurkha separatists during a six-hour gun battle here.

Coma victim used for test named

From Susan MacDonald, Paris

The human guinea pig, on whom an experiment was secretly performed to test the intoxication theory which forms the basis of the Poitiers doctors' trial, was named in yesterday's *France-Soir* newspaper as Pascal Louette, aged 23, who has been in a coma since a road accident last November.

It has now been established, according to *France-Soir*, that it was Professor Alain Milhaud, head of the anaesthetics department at Amiens teaching hospital, who a week ago wheeled the insensible body of M Louette, together with the tubes which keep him alive, into an operating theatre and administered pure nitrous oxide gas for a short period in order to test the reaction.

It was the first time, according to *France-Soir*, that doctors have tried officially to poison a patient instead of curing him.

The Amiens hospital authorities deny all prior know-

ledge of this experiment, or of giving their consent. Professor Milhaud held the same position in Amiens as does Professor Pierre Meriel in Poitiers teaching hospital.

Three years ago a patient died after an operation in Poitiers hospital at which Professor Meriel was the anaesthetist. Professor Meriel accuses two anaesthetists in his own department of deliberately switching the oxygen and nitrous oxide tubes on the respirator.

Professor Milhaud, says *France-Soir*, was trying to produce the same symptoms as those described by Professor Meriel and so back his colleague's claim that they were due to his inadvertent administration of pure nitrous oxide instead of pure oxygen during reanimation.

Professor Milhaud tried a previous experiment on a patient, judged to be in an irreversible coma, in 1986. He received only a warning.

UK under pressure over EEC tax ruling

From Richard Owen, Brussels

European Commission officials confirmed yesterday that, despite this week's European Court ruling imposing value-added tax on spectacles to bring Britain into line with existing EEC laws, Britain has retained the right to remain exempted for the time being from planned EEC fiscal "harmonization" measures.

These would end zero-rating in Britain of foodstuffs, children's clothing, and other politically sensitive items. But Commission officials said the onus was on Britain to justify exemptions and took issue with the statement in the Commons on Wednesday by Mr Peter Lilley, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, that such exemptions were not "time limited".

Approval for new VAT proposals as part of the 1992 programme requires a unanimous vote among the Twelve. But the pressure is on Britain to follow its recent concessions over the farm reform package by taking a common line on other matters considered vital to the EEC's future. Exemptions could not last long beyond 1992, the date fixed for the completion of a single European market without frontiers and trade controls, officials said.

"I do not see how Britain can be

exempted forever," one official said. "The process of harmonization is intended to avoid trade distortions among the Twelve due to discrepancies in indirect taxation. Britain is committed to that process, just like the other 11 are."

The key documents on VAT to which Britain has put its name are the Sixth VAT Directive of 1977 and the Single European Act of last year. The 1977 directive, signed at the time of a Labour government, was intended as a partial move toward fiscal harmonization. It allowed some exemptions, of which Britain took full advantage. But the Commission argues many of the exemptions were unjustified - hence its court action which has taken 10 years to come to fruition.

The European Court, which has primacy over national courts in EEC law, ruled that exempting spectacles, contact lenses and hearing aids was not justified on medical grounds (one of the 1977 loopholes). Further court rulings are expected to force Britain to end "illegal" 1977 exemptions on news services, coal, sewerage and industrial construction (though not domestic housing), with resulting price rises. Paradoxically, under the Commission's proposals prices of tobacco and alcohol would go down.

Strictly speaking, plugging the loop-

holes in the 1977 directive is not connected to the proposals now being put forward by Lord Cockfield for fiscal harmonization in 1992. But there is a clear linkage. The 1977 directive states (Article 28) that exemptions can be maintained until a date "not later than that on which the charging of tax on imports and the remission of tax on exports in trade between the member states are abolished". That date, according to the Commission, is 1992. "One wonders whether British ministers put their name to the 1977 directive thinking 1992 would never happen," one source said.

The Single European Act, which amends the Treaty of Rome - the EEC's basic law - and which was ratified by Westminster last year, enshrines 1992 as a legally binding target date. Article 99 reads: "The Council of Ministers shall, acting unanimously on a proposal from the Commission and after consulting the European Parliament, adopt provisions for the harmonization of legislation concerning turnover taxes, excise duties and other forms of indirect taxation to the extent that such harmonization is necessary to ensure the establishment and the functioning of the internal market within the time limit laid down" (by

1992). This wording was agreed by Mrs Thatcher at the Luxembourg summit of December, 1985.

"The question revolves around the phrase 'within the time limit laid down', and whether harmonizing VAT - and therefore ending zero-rating in Britain - is or is not necessary for the functioning of the single market," an official said. "The onus is on Britain to prove that it is not necessary - which will be difficult, since it obviously is."

The Cockfield proposals, which envisage harmonizing VAT rates into two bands of between 4 and 9 per cent and 14 and 20 per cent, are still under discussion. Negotiations behind the scenes between Britain and the Commission could result in modification. The proposals are in any case likely to be modified further by the Council of Ministers when they come to be passed into law. Officials said Lord Cockfield had offered to discuss continued exemptions with Britain, provided the Government could show such exemptions were needed for pressing economic or social reasons.

Brussels was "not seeking to dictate Britain's fiscal policies," the spokesman said. But exemptions could be only for a temporary period after 1992, "and however you define temporary, it does not mean forever" (by

'...where you have initiative, talent and ability, the money follows...'

the Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister, Teesside, 16 September 1987

Students protest as South Korea begins 'era of democracy'

Party spirit refuses to fizz on Roh's great day

From Gavin Bell, Seoul

South Korea has begun its new era of democracy in a subdued mood, which not even 21-gun salutes, patriotic songs and a skirmish between riot police and students could dispel.

The inauguration yesterday of Mr Roh Tae Woo as President should have been a grand occasion. It was the first peaceful transfer of power in the country's constitutional history and signalled the end of four decades of authoritarian rule. A national holiday was declared but there was no dancing in the streets. The prevailing mood was of acceptance rather than jubilation.

The most lively event came when more than 1,000 students marched from Myeong-dong cathedral to stage a protest rally in the city hall plaza, but even that lacked its usual spirit. Riot police intercepted them and there was the customary exchange of petrol bombs and tear gas, but nobody seemed unduly concerned.



Students listening to speeches yesterday at a protest rally against the Roh Government near Seoul's Myeongdong cathedral.

Reconciliation and co-operation were recurrent themes, notably concerning relations with Pyongyang. Calling for peace talks, he said: "I propose to North Korea that they discard the wild dream of making the free citizens of this land accept their doctrinaire ideology... Let us have a dialogue."

Mr Roh removed his velvet glove only once to reveal an iron fist ready to deal with violent opponents. "I do not want to be a President who pushes his fellow-countrymen around. But I will not be one who is pushed around by mobsters either." Perhaps it may have been the effect of the early-morning chill, but his audience accorded him only polite, scattered applause. Nobody joined in a choral rendition of a patriotic song, although everybody had been issued with the words.

After pausing to watch a traditional farmers' dance in a children's playground, Mr Chun disappeared behind the 20ft walls of his private mansion to return, in his own words, to "a simple life as an ordinary citizen". Judging by the number of guards moving into a house across the street, he will enjoy more privacy and security than most ordinary folk.

The opposition had only itself to blame for the lack of festivities, having wrecked its chances of power by fielding rival presidential candidates. Mr Kim Young Sam and Mr Kim Dae Jung, its principal leaders, are still squabbling and risk losing further ground

Longest tunnel in world heads towards failure

From David Watts, Hakodate, Hokkaido

As the world's longest tunnel, it is an engineering marvel — but when the Seikan tunnel opens to rail traffic soon it will lose money at a rate that will make the Channel tunnel look like a bargain.

Like its Franco-British equivalent, the tunnel, linking the main island of Honshu with Hokkaido, has been envisaged for decades. But whereas the Channel tunnel will come into its own as Europe draws closer together, the Seikan tunnel long ago lost any socio-economic value. In fact, a Transport Ministry committee studying its use is still meeting, although it is due to open on March 13.

The statistics are impressive: running from here to Cape Tappi on the northern tip of Honshu, the tunnel is 33.2 miles long. It has necessitated new innovations in tunnel technology and has cost about 246,000 million.

But the public is focusing not on such details, but on the nostalgia of the last ferry services which it will replace. Students are buying cheap round-trip tickets on the last boat.

When Japan was less prosperous, Hokkaido was a romantic frontier-land inspiring tear-jerking popular songs about the hardships of mining, fishing in seas that freeze over in winter, and films about the toughest Poisons in the country.

In summer, students would ride up here from the south on motorcycles. The trip ended on misty old ferries across the choppy Tsugaru Straits, where a typhoon once sank five of the vessels, drowning 1,430 people.

Today the miners have mostly lost their jobs, those students who are sent in Hawaii or Colorado wait in on new Boeing 767s for a weekend's skiing, and the tunnel will finally put most of the ferries out of business.

With only eight return passenger trips a day on the tunnel rail timetable, there seems little point to the tunnel, whatever the technical achievement.

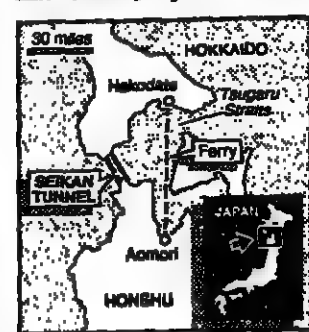
But the newly privatized Japan Rail Hokkaido must rent the tunnel from a government construction corporation

at a price yet to be fixed and make the best of it.

Ask anyone on the streets of Hakodate what they think of their new wonder and they have precious little good to say about it. Most goods go by road these days anyway, and tunnel trains will not be allowed to carry lorries. Taking a car over would be cheaper by far.

The Seikan tunnel concept was propelled forward in the early years by political interests, the construction lobby in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party and, in particular, by Mr Kakuei Tanaka, the former Prime Minister. Construction contracts generate jobs, IOUs which can be called in later and political contributions.

The tunnel was first envisaged before the Second World War as a means of linking Japan with the Asian mainland railway system. When



the plan was revived in 1956, a tunnel survey team reported that it could be built for the equivalent of about \$60 million.

If it had started promptly it might have had a fighting chance. But time and air travel overtook it. With strong factional interest pushing the project ahead in an essentially one-party state there was no one to say "stop".

As late as the early 1980s it was planned to extend the Shinkansen "bullet" train services through the tunnel, which was built to accommodate them. Now conventional narrow-gauge track has been installed, the "bullet" train drama is over and only the bills remain. So rather than pay back huge loans on an unused white elephant, there is no choice but to put it to work and hope for better times.

Leaked sex and spy report rocks Turkish elite

From Roger Boyce, Istanbul

A spicy saga of bitter feuds between wings of the Turkish intelligence service, close contacts between the Istanbul mafia and counter-espionage officers, and a war of corruption and sexual blackmail has emerged from a top-secret document leaked to the Turkish press.

The report, allegedly drawn up by the Turkish National Intelligence Agency in November, 1987, makes Mr Peter Wright's revelations seem small beer indeed.

The first reaction to the report was that it was a forgery or an invention of the left-wing weekly *Turk Yurdu*. But the President's office, having first dismissed the document out of hand, now says merely that the report was "not official".

There has been no substantive denial of its contents and many of the names mentioned are confirmed

by independent sources. The editor of the magazine claims to have tape recordings — transcripts of which he published this week — that vouch for the veracity of the document.

The report says that General Necdet Uerug, until last year the Chief of the Turkish General Staff, had close business relations with the alleged godfather of the Istanbul mafia, Mr Dunder Kiliç.

Slightly less violent than its Sicilian equivalent, the Istanbul mafia nevertheless has similar concerns: the narcotics trade, building speculation, protection rackets, gambling, prostitution and smuggling. It has tentacles in several sections of public life, including politics and show business.

When General Uerug was martial law commander of Istanbul after the military coup of September, 1980, he protected the mafia, according to the report. In return, he was given an

introduction to Istanbul's most famous singer of popular love songs, the blonde and sultry Emel Sayin.

At the same time, the report claims, the deputy police chief of Istanbul was using women to trap high-level civilian officials. Another member of the police hierarchy was helping the mafia to smuggle cigarettes into Turkey while the then Governor, Mr Nevzat Ayaz — since transferred to Izmir — was allegedly granting gambling licences to his friends.

Ankara police were tipped off about the contacts between the Istanbul officers and the underworld and started an undercover operation. The move, says the report, was authorized by the coup leader, General Kenan Evren, now President of Turkey.

Istanbul police got wind of the investigation and started to collect material on the personal lives and

business activities of the five generals on the supreme ruling body under martial law, the National Security Council. This, too, provided explosive information, and so a deal was struck between the Ankara and Istanbul police forces.

Ankara would stop its investigation of police corruption in Istanbul, while Istanbul's officers would leak no information on the ruling generals and their relatives.

The magazine says that the report was drawn up by the National Intelligence Agency under its secretary, Mr Hiram Abas, Mr Erkan Guvur (who happens to be the son-in-law of President Evren), the head of the Turkish drugs squad, Mr Atilla Aytekin, and a shrewd counter-espionage officer, Mr Mehmet Eymur.

The General Staff claims that the whole report is a fabrication and an attempt to attack the integrity of the

Army. President Evren has tried publicly to defend the Army's reputation, deploring what he called "discrimination against soldiers by certain circles" who wanted to neutralize the Army. "Virtuous individuals are being falsely libelled," he told a meeting.

But most observers believe that the President is deploring the leaking of the document rather than questioning its authenticity.

Certainly in the early 1980s the police turned a blind eye to the activities of the mafia. It appears that Miss Sayin did indeed enjoy a friendship with the former Chief of Staff. The general in turn could have launched, but did not, a big crackdown on police-mafia contacts in Istanbul.

A scandal is unravelling slowly, day by day, and it is the subject of intrigued conversations in coffee houses throughout the city.

Initiative Talent Ability

Within weeks of becoming operational Teesside Development Corporation acted as the catalyst to speed the progress of a host of established and new initiatives, all of which offers outstanding development and investment opportunities. Among them -

Teesside riverside housing, commercial and retail scheme

Teesside Offshore Base for ocean bed technology

Hartlepool Marina and maritime heritage complex

Teesside international nature reserve

Teesside regional leisure centre

Belasis Hall Technology Park

Bowesfield Park prestige industrial development

Tees walkway and weir to enhance waterside environment

Research and Development opportunities with ICI and the chemical industry

Middlehaven commercial/residential development

Improvements to communications and other facilities

Major foreign investment testifies to confidence in Teesside. Already established there - companies from Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Germany, Scandinavia, the Netherlands and the USA.

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- Denis Henderson, Chairman, ICI

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- Lord Jellicoe, Chairman, Davy Corporation

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Teesside is a Development Area that also boasts two Enterprise Zones - with all the financial incentives that this implies for new and expanding enterprise. Teesside enjoys European Community grant and loan opportunities.

An established gateway to Europe, Teesside operates the third largest port in the UK.

Through its port and excellent motorway and rail links, Teesside commands a massive population market in the UK and on the European mainland.

To find out more about Teesside's Initiative, Talent and Ability: Contact Duncan Hall, Chief Executive, Teesside Development Corporation, Tees House, Riverside Park, Middlesbrough, Cleveland TS2 1RE. Tel: (0642) 230636.

TEES/SIDE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Confederacy of confusion

America's presidential campaign is swinging into Dixie and Super Tuesday, the unique regional primary. But, as Michael Binyon reports, there is still no clear message coming out of the South

It is the crucible of America. No other region of the United States is as set apart, branded, evocative of the past, or moulded by a prouder and more bitter history. Nowhere else do old loyalties and resentments run so fiercely and so deep, or hold such powerful and generally disastrous sway over politics and daily life today. Nowhere else is as rich in soil and spirit and poor in wealth and opportunity.

All the great conflicts and social upheavals that have shaped America have been played out in the huge, burning, pitiless expanses of the South. More than 120 years after its bloody attempt to cut itself off from the United States, the South is still separate — in dialect, customs, outlook and politics. For the rest of America, the South is as much a frame of mind as a geographical entity.

No wonder, then, that politicians in the United States are somewhat apprehensive at the extraordinary attempt to restore to the South a national influence unknown in all the years of exile from the political mainstream. No wonder Super Tuesday, a unique regional primary of 14 Southern and border states, together with elections in six other states, presents unprecedented challenges.

Like Roman Gaul, the South is now divided into three parts. There is the old Deep South — states such as Alabama and Mississippi, which claim to be the heart of Dixie but are still mired in poverty, ignorance and a racist past. There is also the Oil Belt — dominated by big, brash Texas, but including Oklahoma and Louisiana. Life roared forwards in the oil boom, and cities such as Dallas and Houston became megalopolises for the superlatives that the oil wealth created. The vacant modernist glass towers in Houston, the empty treasury and steamy corruption of Louisiana are now the symbols of the oil bust that has taken a harsh toll in the past four years.

And finally there is the New South — the booming states of the East Coast, such as Georgia, North Carolina and Virginia, and border

states such as Tennessee, where new automated car plants, foreign investment and high technology are giving fresh vitality to the gentle countryside of small farms and pleasant towns.

Atlanta is the capital of the New South: a gleaming metropolis whose airport has just overtaken Chicago's as the busiest in America, a media and communications centre for new cable television networks, a characteristically dynamic business centre whose air-conditioned skyscrapers could be those of any expanding city in America. All trace of the past has been swept away. Even the dilapidated house in a nearby suburb where Margaret Mitchell wrote her famous novel is threatened with redevelopment and will soon be gone with the wind.

In addition there is one appendage that nowadays hardly fits into any Southern category — Florida, the fastest growing state in America, home to a multi-billion dollar citrus industry and an equally profitable Disney World-influenced tourist industry, retirement haven for millions of Yankee exiles from the snow-belt, political exiles from Cuba and economic refugees from all countries further south.

What have these states in common, apart from the climate and the old Confederacy? What message will they send to the presidential contenders, as they race from airport to airport, beam their faces and claims from television stations in more than 100 media markets? Three influences predominate: conservatism, racial division and the claims of the disaffected, those who feel disenfranchised through poverty, lack of education or religious fundamentalism.

The South has always been more conservative than the rest of the country. In the long period when the Democrats held a virtual monopoly over the politics of the region — a long-standing reaction to the Republican party of Abraham Lincoln — southern Democrats were like a separate party, strange bedfellows with the liberal Democrats of the North.

Senator Strom Thurmond of South Carolina embodied the

segregationist, conservative outlook of southern politicians. He still regards a senator, but less shuck-off his old attitudes. The shuck-off of George Wallace, Alabama, with his famous cry "Segregation for ever!" and his denunciation of "pointy-headed liberals", marked the last gasp of a Southern Democratic party whose policies were often fed on fear, resentment and a clannish sense of regional inferiority.

The Nixon strategy of trying to bring the conservative vote over to the Republicans was the beginning of the break in the Democratic stranglehold. The civil rights reforms hastened that, as blacks, surprisingly, stuck with the Democratic party once they began to vote in large numbers. This drove die-hard conservative promptly into the arms of the Republicans.

Today, both parties are more conservative than their national organisations. Young Democrats from the New South — men such as Senator Sam Nunn of Georgia, and former governor Charles Robb of Virginia — represent the adjustment to the 20th century. They are remarkably intelligent, highly articulate and no longer feel defensive about their Southern origins. But they are conservative Democrats, and have led the movement to try to pull the party to the right.

Senator Albert Gore of Tennessee, who is trying to make the South his launching pad to the White House, is counting on his lurch to the right, especially on defence and foreign policy, to garner Southern votes. The Republicans are counting on a general disenchantment with all the Democrats, and mass defections to the Republicans camp.

The politics of race still marks the South. It is not the old racist way of doing things, except perhaps in pockets of the Deep South. All that changed 20 years ago and, indeed, blacks probably have better political opportunities now than in the big cities of the North. But racial loyalties and interests are still predominant.

The fact that the Rev Jesse Jackson is black guarantees him



Guaranteed support: Jesse Jackson, campaigning in Asheville, North Carolina, can rely on the black vote

overwhelming support from blacks right across the South. His support comes from the pulpit of black churches, which still exercise enormous influence, and from black leaders in every state.

His funds do not come with large donations, but with the small collections taken at black church services. And he does not need expensive advertising to rally voters; blacks feel they have at last one of their own in the race. Their turnout is likely to be higher than the white turnout this year.

But the South is the one area where Jackson will probably make

almost no headway in the white vote. He is too liberal. He is seen as a candidate of the blacks. And he has shut out the chance for any other white Democrat to pick up black support.

The nexus between race and politics has always bedevilled the South. But while this may be weakening, another equally vexed connection is strengthening its hold: the link between politics and religion. The South is still the Bible Belt, the home of the fundamentalist Southern Baptists, the largest denomination in America. And this is where Pat Robertson

sees his strength. He appeals to the spiritual side of the same people whose political yearnings were expressed by George Wallace 20 years ago.

In both cases, it is an appeal to the Southern inferiority complex. Where Wallace told them they were "just as cultured and refined and dedicated" as people elsewhere, Robertson and his fellow evangelists tell them that ultimately their simple faith will be rewarded in Heaven, while the upper crust — a mixed bag of liberals, hedonists, ecumenists, psychologists, film-makers, homo-

sexuals and pornographers, to name a few — will be consigned to eternal torment.

The fundamentalists of the Bible Belt, who know that the rest of America laughs at their ignorance and prejudices, saw things change with the advent of Ronald Reagan, and began to sense power with the conservative revolution, which emphasized the very issues that they had championed: the family, old-fashioned morality, school prayers, the outlawing of abortion. But it is not simply a Jack Kemp conservatism. It is an essentially religious populism. And a moral superiority, a crusade to save America from the decay of the Eastern Establishment liberals, lies under the Robertson message.

The economically dispossessed will also have a large say. Much of the South is booming. But much has been left behind. Southern states have been reluctant to spend money on social services or education. And the baleful results are now apparent: a high level of illiteracy, and badly educated population, which makes a poor labour market for the new hi-tech industries.

The statistics are depressing. The South is still the poorest region, with nearly 40 per cent of the nation's poor. It spends 20 per cent less on education per pupil than elsewhere. Of the nine states with the worst infant mortality rates, seven are in the South.

Southerners are worried about the economy, about low education standards and about foreign competition. The strongly protectionist, vaguely xenophobic message of Richard Gephardt, one of the Democratic front-runners, will play well among Southerners, while Michael Dukakis, the New England liberal, will have to look for support in those pockets of prosperity and industrial growth in North Carolina, Florida and other less obviously "Southern" communities.

Super Tuesday was an attempt to give the region a coherent say in national politics. But it may backfire. There are too many cross-currents now, too much divergence. Even the old Confederate flag, still a passionate symbol for Alabama and the heart of Dixie, is largely irrelevant to booming Georgia and Tennessee. What the grand slam primary may do instead is further fragment and complicate an election that is already muddled. No one has a "Southern strategy" that will work in all 14 states. And no one may emerge a real front runner on March 9.

The Bushmen of Namibia
The Spectrum article on the Bushmen of Namibia should have stated that a Bushman died in the London Museum in around 1849 and not the London Zoo. The suggestion that lice were granted to shoot Bushmen as recently as 1953 appears to be without foundation.

SATURDAY

Portfolio
PLUS NEW
Accumulator
At least
£8,000
to be won



Dustin Hoffman as Tootsie: a huge hit. But which of the 10 writers took the credit?

Writer's cramp

"Sweetheart, I haven't time to read it. Tell it to me in one sentence." In Hollywood, an army of screenwriters labour, but only a fraction of their words ever reach the screen. Tootsie, which took seven years, had 10 writers. They were lucky; many toil in vain. Tomorrow, as the Oscars loom, *The Times* looks at the trials and tribulations of the men behind the scripts.

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1499

ACROSS

- Roaming dogs (6)
- Exceeded (6)
- Vital point (4)
- London City Airport (8)
- Kitchen implement (7)
- Showed great anger (3)
- Very deep male voice (5,8)
- Lamentation (4)
- Thin wood shape (7)
- Of respected lineage (8)
- Just (4)
- Failing (6)
- Gathering darkness (6)

DOWN

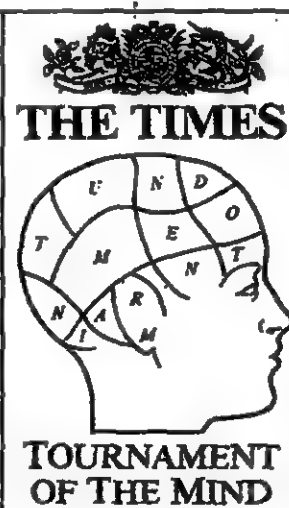
- Yield to (7)
- Climber's path (5)
- Raw fish cakes (5)
- Scanty (4)
- Twelve bore (7)
- Outmoded (5)
- Pebble (5)
- Ransack (5)
- Income excess (7)
- Towards the front (7)
- Joinery peg (5)
- Car lifts (5)
- Period between wickets (5)
- Rugged peak (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1498

ACROSS: 1 Branch 4 Status 9 Seward 10 Gruel 11 Gash 12 Looter 14 Thickheaded 18 Atract 19 Soft 22 Other 24 Essence 25 Fodder 26 Nurtured

DOWN: 1 Bass 2 Adams 3 Cha-chu-chu 5 Tag 6 Squeeze 7 Spirit 8 Adolf Hitler 11 Guit 13 Caususcu 15 Hitched 16 DDT 17 Pay off 20 Fails 21 Mead 23 Rye

Tournament of the Mind



● As *The Times* Tournament of the Mind enters its fourth day, families, individuals and schools are entering to win the £5,000 top prize and the school prize of an IBM Personal System computer.

● The questions are now getting progressively harder, but don't despair if you cannot answer all of them, remember it is the readers with the top 100 scores and the top 10 schools will be invited to join the Tournament Final, to be played in *The Times* over a week.

● Round Five of the 20-day contest will be published in *The Times* tomorrow, together, for this week only, with the previous questions. So there is still time to pit your brains against the country's best.

ROUND FOUR — QUESTIONS

Some more questions to challenge your brain power.
See how many you can tackle, and fill in the answers on the coupon.
Keep all the answer coupons until the end of the Tournament.

How many rectangles of any size can you count in this diagram?



Replace the first letter of each word below with another letter, so that a new word is formed each time and that the new letters form the name of a fish. What is the fish?

() POLE
() END
() RIFE
() SEEK
() UNION
() BONE

What is the next number in the following series?
15 12 14 10 13 8 ?

A farmer has sold some eggs. Brown eggs cost three times as much as white eggs, but of the 144 eggs sold only half were brown. Brown eggs cost £3 for 36. How much cash was made from the sale?

1 What was the name of the sword of King Arthur?
2 Which animal is often associated with long distance buses in the United States?
3 Which football team is nicknamed the "Gunners"?
4 Who, along with Braque, led the Cubist movement in painting?
5 What is the usual name for Oil of Vitriol?

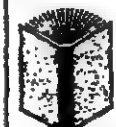
ROUND FOUR — ANSWERS
Cut out your answers and keep this coupon until Round 20. Answers will be accepted only on coupons printed in *The Times*.

PUZZLES
Answer 1 _____ Answer 2 _____
Answer 3 _____ Answer 4 _____
GENERAL KNOWLEDGE
Answer 1 _____
Answer 2 _____
Answer 3 _____
Answer 4 _____
Answer 5 _____
NAME _____

FINDINGS

A weekly series on research

PUBLIC OPINION



The majority of library-users and book-buyers are middle-class, according to a MORI poll conducted in December for *The Sunday Times* Books section. The notion that book readers tend to be women is not borne out by the survey.

While 45 per cent of lower working class respondents claimed never to have entered a public library in 1987, 39 per cent of skilled manual workers and their families, 29 per cent of lower middle-class people and only 18 per cent of middle and upper middle-class respondents had not been in a public library throughout the year. Half of the middle and upper middle-class people had borrowed books at least 10 times, compared with 39 per cent of the lower middle-class, a third of skilled manual workers and 19 per cent of lower working-class respondents.

Substantial class variations were also evident in book-buying habits: only 6 per cent of the middle and upper middle-class people had not been in a bookshop in 1987, compared with 39 per cent of the lower working-class respondents.

MORI found no significant gender differences in library habits: 37 per cent of men and women had visited a public library 10 or more times in 1987. Some differences did occur in book-buying: 67 per cent of men and 60 per cent of women had bought a book for themselves but 60 per cent of men and 67 per cent of women had bought a book for someone else. Robert Worcester

CONSERVATION



Polar bears and ermine — the white, winter-coated stoat of northern latitudes — use their white colour as camouflage. New research points to gulls and other seabirds, most of whom have white underparts, doing the same.

The hunting success of black-headed gulls was monitored by a Swedish zoologist, Frank Gotmark of the University of Gothenburg. When hunting in flocks, their natural white under-plumage increases

ed their hunting success. The reason seems to be that their white colour renders them inconspicuous to their aquatic prey against bright skies.

He also suggests that in gull species dependent on diving for fish or crustaceans, both adults and juveniles have white underparts. Those species — such as the common seaside herring gull — with brown juveniles and light adults, usually have youngsters that scavenge on the shore and adults that predominate at sea. *Malcolm Smith (Source: Animal Behaviour, 35: 1786-92)*

CLASSICS



The age of males and females at first marriage in the western Roman Empire is the subject of studies by Professor Richard P. Saller in *Classical Philology* (on males) and Professor Brent D. Shaw in *Journal of Roman Studies* (on females). The legal minimum age for marriage was 12 for females, 14 for males, but child brides seem to have been the exception rather than the rule, and marriages in which one or both of the partners were very young were probably most common among the aristocracy, for whom the possession of wives and children provided career advantages under Augustan legislation. It was usual for girls to marry in their late teens and for men to marry in their late twenties. *Martin F. Smith*

ARCHAEOLOGY



The Mounties always get their men — and archaeologists working in western Canada have now got their Mounties. Excavations at Fort Walsh, a Royal Canadian Mounted Police outpost in southern Saskatchewan, recovered hundreds of empty bottles. Most were not for spirits but contained patent medicines which had a high alcoholic or narcotic content, such as "Ethereal Phosphorus", the "new remedy for nervous debility", Syphilis and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever were the most common diseases. Founded in 1875, the fort acquired a proper hospital only in 1881 and was abandoned two years later. *Norman Hammond*

FRIDAY PAGE

Do you want to know who you really are? Catherine Bennett spent an evening with the facilitators of Insight

'Within 15 minutes, mature people were whining'

Hi, nice to see you, Catherine. How are you going to pay, my love? It is the friendliest thing in the world, handing over money to Insight, and there were about 100 of us on Wednesday night, smilingly writing out cheques for £75 to radiant people who wear badges bearing their names. That was only a deposit — a form explained that our five-day "Transformational Seminar" was really a "Gift Seminar", a present from Insight "graduates", who wanted to share with us this flourishing Californian art... a way of becoming more of who we already are... a way of becoming more like Bruce Gyngell and Arianna Stassinopoulos, both proselytizing Insight alumni.

Later on we, too, would have the opportunity to "pass on the gift" — a figure of £300 was suggested — so that others might also learn to "rise above the illusions, abandon the masks, stop playing the games". But the first session concerned "committing to self", and the

mastery of 15 "guidelines", which we repeated like Third World school-children after our two "facilitators".

"Eat only on meal breaks," said Martha, glowing Texan facilitator. "Eat only on meal breaks," we chanted. "Do not wear time-pieces." Watches, it was explained, were like food and drink — they might distract us from the words of Martha. There was a rustic as sensible looking adults scrambled with the buckles of digital watches. "Maintain the seating arrangement," ordered Martha, indicating rows of white dots on the floor. The rote learning was a lengthy affair, often interrupted by "sharing" (in which the participants stand up, announce their name, and express themselves through a microphone).

"I haven't got any white dots," said one man. "If we really want to go to the loo we can't wait," pleaded a woman. Martha explained how, often, we only wanted to go to the lavatory to avoid hearing something challenging. So, from 6pm to almost 1am, we sat obediently in our purple chairs, rising only for a 15-minute break, at which nothing but

water was allowed, or for "meet and greet" encounters with fellow participants.

Many of these had arrived in a confessional mood, needing only the slightest encouragement to seize the microphone and share. A show of hands proved that many were veteran self discoverers — of systems such as EST, Exegesis, Western Zen Retreat, Loving Relationships. But even the untrained behaved from the start with a trusting lack of inhibition, greeting total strangers with "My life was stuck in a rut", or "There were things I didn't like about myself and I wanted to change them".

In the first sharing, one man announced that his problem was "going in too many directions at once". We clapped, as we had been instructed to do after someone has splurged in this way. Another had got lost on the motorway, and nearly ended up in Luton. Applause! A woman had seen a rainbow on the way to the hotel. More and more applause.

Martha's act required repeated shows of hands. Who was scared? Who had

problems? Who resented her Texan accent? Great, that's good. It was obvious that all the bad things — bad relationships, bad guys, bad everything — could all become part of growing, if we just faced them. "How many of you have all the joy, loving, abundance, freedom, friends that you want?" No one. But who wanted them? We all did! Yes please! We all wanted more and more, abundance without end. And Insight could help us, starting with "Groundrule" number one (repeated after Martha): "Use everything for your advancement". Groundrule two: "Take care of yourself so you can take care of others". One girl wanted to share about that. She thought it placed too much importance on "others". Good point, said Martha: "If the wording doesn't work for you, just change it inside yourself".

We closed our eyes and thought about what we most wanted from the seminar. "Allow yourself to grant that wish," cooed Martha. "Dreams come true here. We played with lumps of sticky Plasticine. "Mine's got something inside it," cried a

participant. All the lumps contained a little heart-shaped fake diamond. "We are all gold inside," said Sheila, the British facilitator, whose outside was large and covered in flowing grey silky stuff. Before she became a facilitator, Sheila had been in involved in weight control clinics and motivation training.

Martha scampered about the podium in her business suit, illustrating her points with visual metaphors. We should deal with pain in our lives as if it were a "little puppy dog's tail". Cut it all off in one go, don't do it in stages because you are trying to be kind. At this point, a couple in business suits walked out. Martha began some business with her chair, pretending it was a "problem". It could be side-stepped. It could be tripped over, carried about — and Martha illustrated all these options with great agility. But the answer was to sit in it. Experience it. "You don't need to understand your problem to let it go," Martha confided that she still did not understand this very seminar, after presenting it for four years. "My inner knower says it's the loving that does it."

At around 11.30pm, Martha started a game, "The Game of Life", which involved some elementary arithmetic, and was manifestly intended to groan her tired, uncomfortable, hungry audience into a show of strife and childishness. Within 15 minutes, these respectable, mature people were whining that they didn't want to play, they didn't see the point. "It's not about life, it's just called that," we're not communicating, basically! "We agreed to participate in the experience." "It's a silly game." "Oh, come on." An elderly man stood up and announced his name: "I'm sharing that I'm leaving and I'm not coming back, and I think it's a disgrace."

At almost one o'clock, Martha took the stage. Yes indeed, the game had been about life, and about "what you do with your personal power..." At last, we shut our eyes and listened to a quavery ballad over the loudspeakers: "Oh it's hard to tell the truth when no one wants to listen". When we opened them, the facilitators had tiptoed away.

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A very angry beanpole

Twiggy's latest project has just been murdered — and she is furious

The script is colourful even by Hollywood standards. Cockney former teenage model from Neasden, now head of her own film production company, fights to save her beloved multi-million pound musical psycho-thriller from assassination by "heartless" trade union chiefs.

A true professional as always, Twiggy was flawless in the part, as much at home in this new role of enraged movie tycoon as she ever was in the minis and little white boots which made her a founder member of the Swinging Sixties.

"It's unbelievable," she says, purple leather-clad legs curled up beneath her on the sofa. The objects of her fury were Equity and the Musicians' Union whose longstanding demands for more money caused London Weekend Television to withdraw their backing and cancel their planned serialisation of *Betty*, a period thriller, in which Twiggy was to play a dual role as producer and star.

She fell for the story of *Betty*, a 1930s nightclub hostess, the moment she read the book. She was so enamoured with the part ("perfect for me") and for the cliff-hanger endings which she adored as a child, that when film producer Barry Hanson allowed his rights on the book to lapse, she took out a two-year option on it and formed a production company to make it herself, with Hanson as co-producer.

While such entrepreneurial action is accepted behaviour in Hollywood, where actresses such as Barbra Streisand, Goldie Hawn and Sally Field have all put their bank balances on the line along with their artistic reputations, it is almost unheard of among their British counterparts. For Twiggy, now 38, it is the next step, after acting in films (*The Boy Friend*) and on television (*Pygmalion*) and on Broadway (*My One and Only*). "Because I did *The Boy Friend* and *My One and Only*, I keep getting asked to do 1920s musicals like *Me and My Girl* on



Wanting the chance to play a dual role, in true Hollywood style: Twiggy, awaiting the call in her flat in London

Broadway. But I want to do something different now." She makes it sound easy and insists that it was, until the recent disaster. She says that she has suffered none of the difficulties encountered by women who, on assuming a traditionally male role, become a target for chauvinistic jibes.

Twiggy's problem is rather different. Having made her name, "such a silly name", as a photographic beanpole, she then had to persuade people to take her seriously. "The Broadway show helped enormously, because it made people realize that I am serious about what I'm doing."

Nor is she worried about

there being any conflict between her executive and starring roles. "I'm not the sort of person who is going to strut around the set shouting about the fact that I'm the producer. I'm already quite aggressive if I need to be, although I'm very tolerant until I think something is unfair."

After seven years of living in Los Angeles, followed by a spell in New York, she is back in London, sharing an Earl's Court flat with her boyfriend, the actor Leigh Lawson, and her nine-year-old daughter, Carly. Michael Whitney, Carly's father, died in 1983. Their life-style is that of a conventional married couple, although Twiggy says that

they have no plans to get married.

Her £4½ million film, planned to be televised in six one-hourly episodes, would have been the first major independent production to be financed by a British television company. London Weekend have already invested £1 million in *Betty*; £350,000-worth of sets stand ready at Shepperton Studios, including a sunken pool where swimmers were to recreate the Busby Berkeley era of Hollywood musicals and an "absolutely wonderful" nightclub; another £200,000 is being spent on the music — half of which has already been recorded. Twiggy turned down

the chance to make two American television series and a film in order to make *Betty*.

She is still deliberately talking about "when" rather than "if" *Betty* is made — and after that, she intends to continue producing films of her own. She and Lawson are keen to do something together.

"You can't put all your eggs in one basket in this business, because everything doesn't come off. Look what's happened to *Betty* — we've got the money, we've got all the people wanting to do it — and we still can't make it."

Sally Brompton

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Gospel truth?

Yes, it is very easy to make fun of the unhappy time the American television evangelists are going through. "Brother Swaggart," said Forrest Hall, secretary treasurer of the Louisiana district of the Assemblies of God, speaking on television last Sunday night after Jimmy Swaggart's tearful confession of sexual misconduct. "Brother Swaggart, would you come here? I believe I bring you to a group of people who love you."

The television cameras moved in close to catch the strained face of Mrs Swaggart sitting behind her husband and then panned over to the congregation. Their faces were all contorted with moans and tears and they were standing up applauding, the women holding large pastel handbags and their hair layered and tightly permed. Some of the men were in leisure suits and they had jowls that were plumped up and shaking with emotion. "I beg your forgiveness," Swaggart had said, and there were little bits of coloured Kleenex crumpled up in the hands of both the men and women.

As I understand it, Swaggart had been caught out in a motel room with a prostitute in an encounter that stopped short of intercourse but included acts of a pornographic nature. "Refrain from speculation and imagination," counselled Hall, and after taking a look at Swaggart I did not find this a hard instruction to follow.

I did not speculate too much on the activities of Jim Bakker and Jessica Hahn either, although I did widen my eyes just a little as I saw all those coloured pictures of his-and-her cars and houses that stretched to infinity. So much for beige-coloured carpet and gold swan taps, I thought. That is when I realized what was up.

The problem with charismatic religions, and the Press and opinion-makers who dislike them so, is that the big city Press is essentially middle or upper-middle class and the fundamentalists are essentially lower class. Television preachers have a style that is middle-class sensibilities sounds indescribably vulgar. It is so very "low rent". The way the Press and indeed much of middle-class society deals with this is to grind away that this is a billion dollar business and that Swaggart himself represents 150 million of that



BARBARA AMIEL

amount, as if this in itself is enough to put their sincerity into question.

Of course, television evangelism may well represent a billion dollar business, but surely this fact alone is as much a moral neuter as is the fact that the mainstream churches have considerable wealth. The Rev John Barton, broadcasting adviser to the Church of England, may sneeringly call these American electronic ministries "The Price Is Right with a Bible" but

'Refrain from speculation and imagination,' we were counselled; after taking a look at Swaggart I did not find this a hard instruction to follow

doesn't he represent a rather well-off business himself? All churches are after the collection plate, electronically or otherwise, and the people who give money to the Swaggarts and Bakkers must feel they get value. Frankly, I think it ill behoves the middle classes to sneer just on that account. To suggest that people who are put to sleep by ignominious Layla, or for that matter G.K. Chesterton, should do without spiritual solace of a different style is simply foolish. There may be a number of people who do not have the intellectual or cultural refinement to derive comfort from the ruminations of a high

Anglican or Roman Catholic convert, but shouldn't they be able to put their dollars happily in the plate for the preaching they like?

As to the "sins" themselves, I am not sure why so many of our commentators are having such a belly laugh over them. In the second half of the 20th century these charismatics have set standards for themselves that virtually nobody in the larger society is willing to consider. A lot of the people pulling faces over Swaggart's behaviour are quite possibly engaging in similar sins themselves, and would be mortified to have their behaviour reported. As for the mainstream Church leadership, well, I take it for granted that unless the world has changed considerably since the days of the *Canterbury Tales*, fornication and sexual sins are not alien to the Christian Church. Both the mainstream churches and the charismatics consist of highly fallible mortals, and therefore they will sin and when they do they pay a much higher price than any of us.

It is sad, I suppose to see these television ministers denouncing one another and fighting over ministries, but that surely is nothing new to the Church. Schism and split, heresies and anathemas, pope and anti-pope, Archbishop and *Crookford's Preface* have all rent the Church since time immemorial. One can only have a sigh of relief that the fuss over Tammy Bakker's eyelashes and wardrobe cost considerably less in blood and suffering than the battle between the Homoiousians and the Homoiousians.

This, after all, is charismatic Christianity. The Assemblies of God and the Christian Broadcasting Network are to the Church as the music hall is to the theatre. Meanwhile, the idea now wafting about that these people must be denied access to British cable television seems to me indefensible. Swaggart may not appeal to some of us, but how can one deny spiritual comfort to people because their style of worship is not to our middle-class tastes? Unless one wants to declare incompetent all those families and little old ladies, their tears streaming in sympathy for the pain of their ministers' sins, one must acknowledge the nourishment provided and let the airways broadcast the gospel in all its thumping glory and cost.

Sprays to hold the ozone in place

The hair industry is a step ahead of the Prince of Wales on the aerosol issue

Somebody should have had a word in the ear of our future king, who this week declared that he has become antiseptic enough to issue a ban on aerosols in his home and urged industry to come up with alternatives that do not damage the earth's ozone layer. Industry already has, and the Princess of Wales's immaculate coiffure probably owes much to the new generation of non-aerosol hairsprays, or those which have been traditionally packaged but are free from the controversial ozone-thinning propellant CFC (chlorofluorocarbons).

Conservation-minded women who tried the first generation of pump-action sprays formulated a few years back may have been disappointed in their lack of staying power — hair sprayed in place tended to droop before the first Martini was served — but, according to stylist Paul Edmonds (of top Beauchamp Place salon Edmonds), "The majority of new sprays work just as well as cans. The formula has been



Crowning glory: but do the Duchess of York, Arthur Scargill, the Princess of Wales and Margaret Thatcher use hairspray?

improved so that they produce a fine mist that doesn't leave hair wet — unlike the early non-aerosol types.

Edmonds prefers the innovative sprays "because they don't leave you smelling like a middle-aged dowager who's just spent all afternoon under the drier". Their sole disadvantage? "They aren't great for chignons or other upswep styles — with non-aerosols, you get the best results when you can comb hair through after spraying."

There is another caution from Richard Burns, technical co-ordinator of the West End salon Michaeljohn (which counts the Princess Royal among its clientele, and from whose stable Denise McAdam — creator of the Duchess of York's ever-changing coiffure



— sprang). "You have to be light-handed with the pump action or you can over-do it. The rule is to press gently." Michaeljohn's own contender is due out shortly.

Several of the non-aerosols on the British market are produced by the major cosmetic houses. Este Lauder produces Azure Natural Hair Spray (250ml, £7.50), which contains conditioning elements extracted from seaweed for additional shine. Clinique's non-aerosol hairspray (250ml, £6.75) is, like all its products, allergy-tested and fragrance-free. Vival Sassoon offers "environmental formula" styling power in several strengths with its Non-Aerosol Hair Spray (regular and extra hold) and Hair Mist.

At £2.15 for 125ml, Sas-



soon's sprays are some of the least expensive. Indeed, an excuse deployed by many manufacturers resisting the switch is that the new packaging sends costs soaring. Paul Edmonds believes, however, that pump action sprays aren't just more ecologically sound — they can be more economical. "There's less waste, because you're targeting the spray, rather than wafting it all around the head."

Clairel says the average aerosol can contain just one third hairspray, the rest is propellant. It has just entered the market with Finalé, also unpumped, whose secret ingredient is a resin which looks and feels natural, yet brushes out easily; it costs £1.59 for 125ml in firm and normal holds.

For those who cannot for-



sake cans, however, Friends of the Earth has produced a free leaflet, "The Aerosol Connection", which lists all aerosol products on the market which are environment-friendly — including hairsprays. It is available by sending a large SAE to Friends of the Earth, 26-28 Underwood Street, London N1 7JQ.

Prince Charles need not apply: his copy is in the post. But perhaps if the ozone layer is to stand a chance Friends of the Earth should ensure that a leaflet is also mailed to Miriam Stoppard, the Duchess of York, Margaret Thatcher and Arthur Scargill — all of whom look as though they may still be applying a little lacquer-

Josephine Fairley

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MARKS & SPENCER



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TIMES DIARY

LORD ST JOHN
OF FAWSLEY

Balliol is undoubtedly — I dread next week's post-bag — Oxford's leading college intellectually, just as Christ Church equally clearly dominates the social round. Alas, it will shortly lose its most distinguished master of recent decades, the philosopher Dr Anthony Kenny. The reason for his departure at such an early age (56) is not a fellow's revolt but a self-denying ordinance. When he was first elected master in 1976 he undertook to serve for 12 years, no more and no less. The fellowship has passed a resolution beseeching him to stay on but he is adamant. To stay would mean, *Deo volente*, a reign of 21 years and that, he maintains, is too much for any mortal. He leaves behind him a community bathed in Matthew Arnold's sweetness and light. It was not always so. Furthermore, he has succeeded in a hitherto lost cause, persuading Edward Heath to allow his portrait to be painted for the college. Mr Heath is Balliol's most faithful son since Hilaire Belloc, with whom he can join in declaring: *Balliol made me, Balliol fed me. Whatever I had she gave me again.* Fortunately, Dr Kenny will not be lost to Oxford for he is being translated to the wardenship of Rhodes House. He thinks his 200 fanned-out scholars will allow him more time to write, but I have my doubts. What about those 400 anxious, jet-setting parents — not to mention the skeletal hands reaching out to one of Oxford's most richly-endowed societies?

This week Lord Dacre (*olim* Hugh Trevor Roper) has been giving the Romanesque lecture at Oxford. For some reason, never altogether clear to me, it has achieved the status of Oxford's blue ribbon. Perhaps it was because Gladstone, the great circumlocutor, gave it first in 1892 and since then it has been delivered by at least two other prime ministers, one American president — Theodore Roosevelt — and, in more recent times, by Monsignor Ronnie Knox and the incomparable Sir Isaiah Berlin OM, the star of stars. Lord Dacre took as his theme "Lost Moments in History" and, staunch non-determinist as he is, maintained that human intervention or non-intervention really does make a difference. If Bacon's advice on pacifying Ireland had been followed in 1641 we would not be mired in the bog we are today. With one swipe at salvation history he argued that without the Emperor Constantine we might all be followers of Mithras and with another — more acceptable to me — he dismissed the statistical rabbit-hole brigade who actually manage to make history boring. Last year, by some computer error no doubt, I was asked to give the lecture and chose as title: "The Omnipresence of Walter Bagehot". He evidently hasn't reached Ohio. I discovered that on giving a lecture there on the bicentenary of the American Constitution, Oxford is economical of introductions. In the United States it's double jeopardy, with one introducer to introduce the introducer and the other to present the victim. I fell at the second fence, when I heard the soubriquet: "He has spent the last 20 years of his life editing, in 15 volumes, the works of the now-forgotten writer Walter Bagehot."



Of course, William only admitted to £150 million to avoid being thought nouveau riche

Prince Charles is not the only member of the Royal Family to have a year for architecture. So does the Duke of Gloucester, and he is a real one. On Monday he shared the honours with the urbane new Italian Ambassador, Signor Boris Bianchini, in opening the exhibition at Riba headquarters of the work of Aldo Rossi. Rossi is a true Renaissance man, designer, drawer, architect and constructor of *jeux de papier*. I was not amused by his *Teatro del Mondo*, a wooden structure which he plunked down in Venice last year in the water off the Zattere, marring the views of the Dogana, San Giorgio, and the Redentore at a stroke. Mercifully grief and canal water has had its way and it has dissolved. Still, at Riba he did offer an amusing requiem prayer for modernism: "If you want to build something new look to the past." Neoclassicism is evidently on the march but Rossi, I fear, is not the new Palladio.

We all know the trouble which can be caused by innocents abroad. The other day I was on my way to Brussels to see the Secretary-General of Nato, who retires on June 30 leaving European defences in good shape, and a more delicious legacy by Lady Carrington, a splendid house designed by her in the grand *style angloise*, much admired in Belgium. My companion and I got to our seats on the plane (economy) to find them already occupied by a couple with identically-numbered passes. A stewardess hove to and demanded our names. Deciding to play such cards as I had I intoned: "Lord St John of Fawsley accompanied by Lady H..." The gentleman in our seat said apologetically: "I'm only Mr Smith." "And you," said the stewardess looking down disapprovingly at the feminine usurper, "I presume are Mrs Smith." "No," she said, going on an attractive scarlet. "I'm actually Mrs Jones." By this time the entire cabin was silent, waiting for the denouement. It came with the stewardess thundering down the aisle and saying to us: "You do want to go to Dusseldorf, don't you?" We fled and were in the right pen in 60 seconds. So much for itinerant sophisticates, and we hadn't even reached abroad.

When I arrived at the DHSS as junior Health Minister in 1984 I believed, like every other minister since 1948, that the National Health Service could be made to work better, but that it was the system that was right for Britain. I then came to see, at close quarters, the immense frustration that I now believe is an ineradicable feature of the structure.

There was the frustration of the many thousands working in the NHS and committed to its ideals who knew how much better it would be if they had the resources, and there was the frustration of ministers, who dedicated ever more public funds and tried to ensure that they were used more effectively, only to be met with contempt and despair.

I also discovered that there was very little serious thinking going on about how things might be put right. In general, new ideas were deemed taboo by NHS insiders, because of their emotional commitment and because they believed the status quo best served their interests. And they were considered taboo by the politicians, primarily because they were aware of the mystic power the NHS still holds over the British public.

Ray Whitney argues for clarity and courage in health reform

Major surgery or nothing

In August last year, having been displaced as junior Health Minister, I sat down to write a book about the NHS. By the time I had finished it at the turn of the year the situation had changed remarkably. The national debate had begun and the new thinking had started at last. There was a growing realization that Aneurin Bevan's recipe of 1946 was incapable of meeting contemporary needs.

Bevan led us down a cul-de-sac. In 1911, Lloyd George had established a scheme of national health insurance which was advanced for its time and it would have been possible, after the last war, to have developed it to provide a comprehensive health service. Most countries which have better services than ours went down the insurance route. But Bevan rejected this option.

The serious opposition to the idea of a national service came from the doctors, who were then

won over when Bevan, in his phrase, "stuffed their mouths with gold". The British Medical Association has become the staunchest and perhaps even the most unthinking defender of the NHS structure, but I have little doubt that this pattern will be repeated when the Government finally embarks on reorganization.

Convinced in our belief that we had created a health care system which was "the envy of the world", for years there was little interest in this country in how other nations provided their medical services. The exception was our predilection for horror stories about the cost of treatment in the United States.

The reality is that there is much in the experience of the United States and of a number of other advanced countries from which we should now learn. Many studies have shown that over the years' standards of

health care in this country have fallen behind. When confronted with the evidence of this, the response of the defenders of the NHS is to point to the differences in the levels of total national — as distinct from exclusively government — spending.

They have a point and I believe that we should be spending at least £10 billion more on our health services. But no Chancellor would, or should, contemplate an increase of that scale in the NHS budget. Moreover, it would do nothing to remedy the inherent structural weaknesses in the NHS.

I believe that the best solution would be a voucher or credit scheme based on proposals made by a committee set up by the BMA in 1967. There would be special arrangements for the chronically sick and elderly; the rest of us would be allocated credits worth about £300 a year

in today's terms, after allowing for central funding of certain activities such as training and research. General practitioners, in return for the credit, would then be responsible for providing or arranging all necessary medical care.

They would do this by operating either through traditional practices (with insurance to cover exceptional cases) or through systems which have now developed a good record in the United States and elsewhere — the health maintenance or the "preferred provider" organizations. Both approaches have demonstrated that they can produce a much higher level of service than the NHS.

The existing NHS hospitals would be floated free and, in effect, given to the local community. They would be established as non-profit-making but economically viable entities, selling their services to the

general practitioners. Their boards of management would include representatives of the local community and of the medical and other professions. The present district and regional health authorities would become unnecessary, their abolition saving hundreds of millions of pounds each year which could be devoted to health care. The whole structure would be monitored by a National Health Authority.

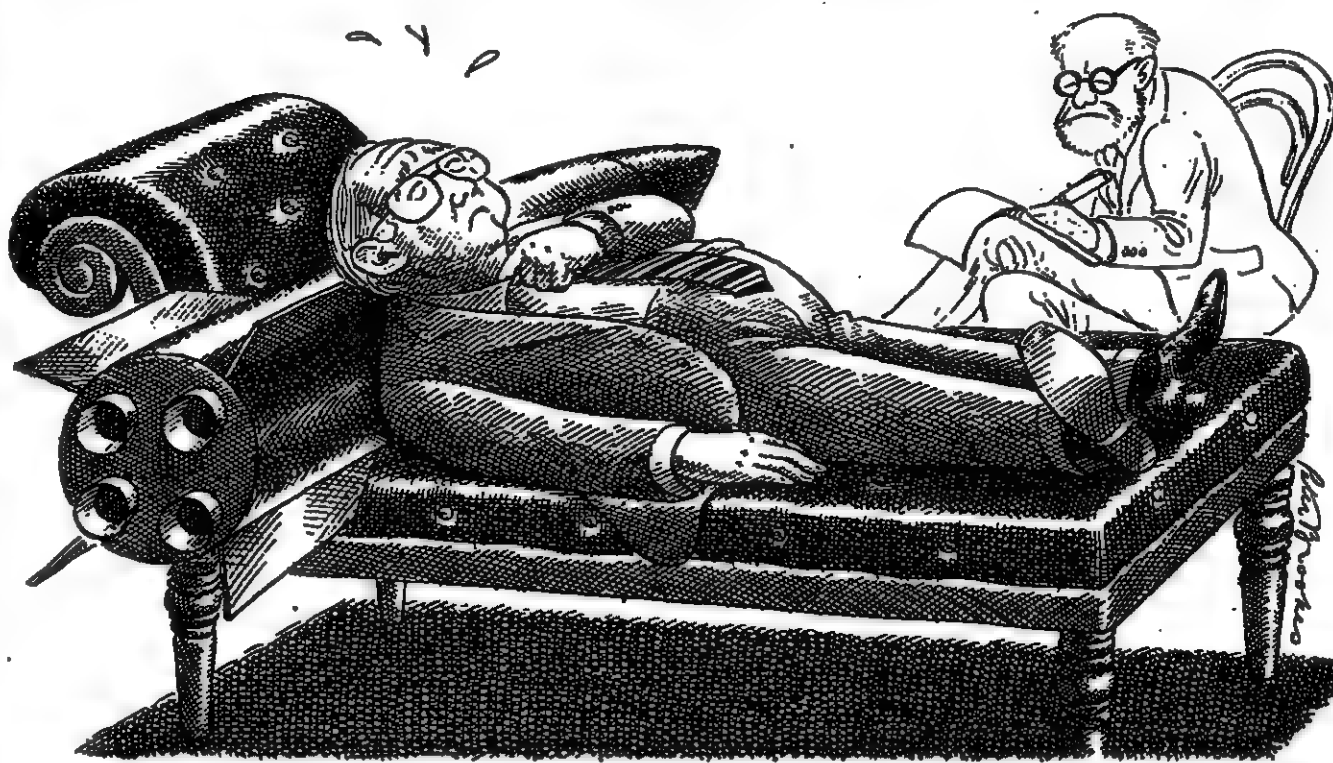
The additional resources we need to spend on health care in this country would come from the topping-up of the health credit — to provide extras such as single rooms, cosmetic surgery, choice of hospital and so on. Top-up arrangements would quickly become part of the normal employment package or family outgoings.

The scheme I am proposing is but one of several exciting possibilities for giving people the standard of health care they deserve. The danger now is that we shall fudge and tinker rather than reform. It is a time for clear thinking and courage.

The author is MP for Wycombe. His book, *National Health Crisis: A Modern Solution*, will be published by Shephard-Walwyn on February 29 (£4.95).

Josef Joffe

Germany's singular condition



There is a psychiatric motif to the criticism of West Germany which is appearing in the Western press these days. The *Wall Street Journal* denounces German "self pity" and "disarmament paranoia"; the *New Republic* discourses on NATO's "Angst-ridden marriage"; while Richard Perle, the former American Assistant Secretary of Defence, has diagnosed a bad case of "schizophrenia" in Bonn. Everybody is hoping that the encounter session in Brussels next week, otherwise known as the NATO summit, will both reassure and restrain the West Germans, who stand accused of terminal anti-nuclearism. Mrs Thatcher has been pressing hard for this summit — and for a resounding collective "no" to all further nuclear disarmament in Europe. Even the French will be there — in part to counter Mrs Thatcher's claim to European leadership, in part to develop an answer to the classic question: "Whither Germany?"

West German anxieties are summed up in the tidy little phrase: "The shorter the ranges, the dearer the Germans", and in the term "singularization". Those ominous "ranges" refer to the nuclear weapons that will remain in Europe once the Pershings and SS-20s are eliminated in line with the December 1978 treaty. With the intermediate-range weapons gone, thousands of short-range systems are said to hold a terrible and "singular" fate for the Germans because these are destined to explode on their territory only.

These are echoes of the early 1980s, when the arrival of Pershing II and cruise missiles triggered the first wave of anxiety. At this time the German left chose to depict the Pershings as a heinous plot that would turn the Federal Republic into the "shooting gallery of the superpowers". Now, it is the German right in Chancellor Kohl's party who are waving the banner of "singularization". Germany is once again portrayed as a "singular" venue and

potential victim of nuclear war in Europe, but this time because the longer-range missiles are leaving not arriving. It does not bespeak sound German self-confidence that when missiles go in, it is a conspiracy; when they go out, it is abandonment.

Is this sheer paranoia, or is it a case of "though this be madness, yet there is method in't"? Singularization is a myth, and a dangerous one. West Germany is not a "singular" target for the Warsaw Pact's nuclear weapons. At the very top of the escalation ladder, the Soviet Union has begun to deploy the SS-24 missile — a handy replacement for the proscribed SS-20. It carries 10 warheads and has a variable range, so that it can hit Brussels just as well as Boston. On the next rung down, the Soviet Union has deployed plenty of Backfire and Fencer bombers which can devastate Western Europe. And there are lots of worthwhile targets be-

yond angst-ridden Germany. Britain, for instance, hosts 160 American F-111 bombers, as well as US missile submarines in Holy Loch. France has the force de dissuasion which the Russians would hardly ignore in a war against the West. On the southern periphery — in Greece and Turkey — NATO's nuclear-capable aircraft make for "time-urgent" targets, and so do such bases in Italy and Holland.

In short, if the Germans die, so will everybody else, including 300,000 American, British and French troops, plus their dependants on West Germany soil. So why the curious talk about "singularization"? There is a real anxiety there, but also an implicit political agenda. The anxiety is as old as the Alliance itself. Given the curse of geography, no NATO member is as vulnerable as the Federal Republic; given the curse of history, no country is

more dependent on allies. Unlike the rest, the Federal Republic cannot count on a well-defended place to the East; it is the placid for Western Europe.

Nor can Bonn seek safety in an independent deterrent, having forsworn nuclear weapons as the price of NATO membership in 1954. So whether missiles go in or out, they remind the West Germans of their "singular" role: as potentially the most powerful nation in Europe that must regularly defer to others in matters of security, the very core of national sovereignty.

And there is an agenda, too. Domestically, the Kohl government no longer has the stomach to go through with yet another nuclear modernization. The Allies have insisted on increasing the reach of NATO's 110-kilometre Lance, which ought to blunt the "shorter the ranges, the dearer the Germans" fear. But the country has a bad case of the nuclear jitters, from power

plants to weapons, and it isn't just the left that would like to see all nuclear weapons go.

Diplomatically, the West Germans are still smarting from the punishment meted out to them by Moscow for deploying Pershing II at Shummed and vilified for five years, they are just beginning to enjoy the fruits of the new détente, and are loath to jeopardize it with new nuclear weapons. There is probably no other country in the West as enamoured of Mr Gorbachev as the Federal Republic where, according to a recent poll, less than a quarter of the population now believes in a Russian threat.

Hence the pressure for ever more disarmament. If, as the singularization myth has it, Germany already labours under a unique nuclear burden, then Bonn must not be made to shoulder any additional weight. But this insistence has backfired. The Germans are now truly "singularized", standing isolated

within the Alliance. Nobody in the West wants a third "zero solution" (removal of short-range systems like Lance) and everybody insists the ball is in the Soviet court. It is Moscow's turn to remove the reason why NATO went nuclear in the first place; by reducing its intolerable superiority in conventional and short-range nuclear weapons.

Will Mrs Thatcher's pet project, the special NATO summit next week, get the Germans on board again? Unwilling to offend either Russians, Americans or his domestic opponents, Kohl will play for time and say "not now" to modernization as well as to "triple-zero". He will not insist on immediate short-range nuclear talks, but he won't let the Alliance get away with postponing the next nuclear round *sine die*. And none of his allies will want to put the squeeze on a country as unsettled as is West Germany today.

And so the summit will issue a communiqué that satisfies and offends nobody. Indeed, this is virtually a foregone conclusion, given Kohl's trip to Washington last weekend, which neatly preempted the Brussels summit. In exchange for holding back German pressures for "triple zero", Mr Kohl received American assurances that nuclear modernization would remain on the back burner for now.

This would not be a bad compromise if it was not for Gorbachev. He now has the West Germans exactly where Moscow has always wanted them. Uncertain about its vocation and protection, West Germany is too strong to be left alone and too weak to go it alone. This spells diplomatic opportunities for the Russians that they have dared only dream about in the past 40 years.

The author is foreign editor of the *Süddeutsche Zeitung*. His book, *Limited Partnership: Europe, the United States and the Burdens of Alliance*, has just been published by Ballinger.

Commentary • LEON BRITTAN

Cause for caution

The transformation in our industrial relations in recent years did not come about as a result of any single action by the Government. It was a gradual process, resulting from a whole series of Acts of Parliament, a lengthy and severe recession and, above all, the long but decisive trial of strength which the NUM precipitated and lost.

It is, therefore, highly unlikely that the current rash of industrial disputes is evidence of a rapid return to the bad old ways. But that does not mean that we can afford to ignore it. Its real significance is that it is one of several signs of inflationary pressures in our economy.

The past year saw growth of 4.8 per cent, and the year-on-year rise for the fourth quarter was 5.3 per cent. Even previous blackspots, such as Teesside, are reporting new projects and jobs almost weekly. When, in addition, all the pre-Budget talk is about the Treasury's overflowing coffers, it is not surprising to find the pressure for higher pay growing and bursting out in industrial action.

The reason why, none the less, that the prospects for 1988 do not justify a further escalation in pay increases. Last year a 6 per cent increase in output in manufacturing industry was accompanied by an enormous improvement in productivity. Output per head rose by over 7 per cent. That was wholly exceptional, and no serious observer of the industrial scene believes it can be repeated this year.

If pay increases continue to escalate, this can only lead to higher prices and to downward pressure on the pound. To bow to that pressure means allowing inflation to rise again. To com-

bat it involves substantially higher interest rates and a sharp curb on our present growth. Some more limited curb may in any event be required, but much tougher action will be necessary if high pay claims are conceded.

The message to employers and employees alike is, then, that high pay settlements will mean higher inflation or higher unemployment, very possibly both. Fortunately the Government can make a major contribution to halting the dangerous trend. It can make it clear that there will be no bailing out operation for Land-Rover. Faced with fierce competition from cheaper foreign vehicles, Land-Rover workers are unlikely to allow their jobs to be destroyed, once they really believe that the Government will not finance their intransigence.

But even if there is success on the pay front, the Government will have done no more than scotch one particular inflationary manifestation. A rapid growth of credit, and significant signs of labour shortages, support the Bank of England's view that renewed inflation is currently a greater danger than a return to recession.

That is why the case for a cautious fiscal approach in the Budget is so powerful. It is time to lower expectations of excessive largesse and start conditioning opinion to the need for a negative FSBR for 1988-89 at least as large as the probable amount for 1987-88. That should still leave room for modest tax cuts and important tax reforms.

The Government should not allow itself to be deflected by calls for a Budget announcement of more money for the NHS. One of the causes of present economic stability has been that

at last we have placed our public finances on a systematic and orderly basis. We have evolved a clear system whereby decisions on public expenditure are announced in the Autumn Statement and tax changes announced in the Budget.

The expenditure decisions apply to the year starting on April 1, so they come into effect in the same year as Budget proposals even though announced before them. Next year public expenditure on the NHS is to go up by £1,100 million. There is no reason why that very substantial increase should be ignored or denied just because the Government announced it last autumn. The time to consider any further cash injection will be when the Government has completed its review of the system of health care. When that has happened later this year there may be a case for some extra money to lubricate any changes announced then.

Indeed, one of the reasons for a cautious Budget now is that it gives the Government room for manoeuvre later in the year. If, contrary to present expectations, recessionary pressures appear, for example, events in the United States, it would then be possible to take counter-action.

This could be one of the rare years when it would be sensible to take action between Budgets. That is because of the great uncertainty about the direction of the world economy, reflected in the fact that since last autumn's crash we have had neither a bull market nor a bear market, but a thin market, with a strikingly low level of trading.

This argues for leaving room for manoeuvre in case of a future downturn. But it also indicates the need for an unusual degree of caution this spring.

SCIENCE REPORT

Ancient foundling

The discovery of a 230-million-year-old fossilized baby reptile provides a "rare glimpse" of life in the Triassic period, according to Dr Martin Sander of the University of Zurich, writing in the *US Journal of Science* of February 12. The find also raises questions about the reproduction of early reptiles.

The exquisitely preserved fossil, of an embryo of the extinct marine reptile, *Neusticosaurus*, may also be the smallest-known fossil of any reptile, measuring just 51mm (about 2in) from tip to tail. The specimen, now housed at the Palaeontological Museum at Zurich University, came from Monte San Giorgio in the Alps. This is one of the world's most important fossil sites, which has kept researchers from Zurich University busy since the 1920s.

The fossils show in vivid detail what seashore life was like in the Triassic period, before the rise of the dinosaurs. The rocks which are now the high Alps were then sands and shales on the seabed of the Tethys Ocean, which stretched from Europe to southern Asia (and of which the Mediterranean and Caspian are relics).

The Tethys beaches, lagoons and inshore waters were populated by a bizarre collection of reptiles, all now extinct. The earliest dolphin-like ichthyosaurs fished the seas, where turtle-like placodonts also broke open shellfish with powerful beaks. Animals with long necks stood on the beach, their heads out to sea, on the



American Assn for Advancement of Science

look-out for passing fish. *Neusticosaurus* was a lizard-like animal, about a foot long when fully grown, which was clumsy on land but probably a good swimmer. A member of a group called the pachypleurosaur, it may have been related to the ancestors of the giant seal-like ocean-going plesiosaurs of later ages.

One remarkable feature of *Neusticosaurus* is its abundance in the fossil record. Some 800 specimens are known in all stages of growth; in vertebrate palaeontology, most fossil species occur in ones and twos.

Sander set off a lively debate at a meeting of palaeontologists at the Geological Museum in London last autumn, when he put forward a view of the development of the animals, but the fossil embryo is quite new. Dr Nick Fraser, a leading authority on Triassic reptiles at Cambridge Univer-

sity's Museum of Zoology, said this week that he has seen "nothing quite like it before".

Sander says that the baby reptile died at hatching age. It is curled up, as if in an egg, but there is no trace of an eggshell. Did *Neusticosaurus* lay eggs, or is the embryo an aborted foetus that would have been born alive?

The wholly marine ichthyosaurs gave birth to live young, as attested by fossils of pregnant females. If *Neusticosaurus* did the same, it is odd that none of the known fossils is of a pregnant female. The embryo was buried in totally marine sediments, an unlikely place for a porous egg unless it had been washed out to sea and then quickly buried. But if *Neusticosaurus* buried its eggs in sand, as modern marine turtles do, embryos should have been found before this.

Fraser speculates that there may be an even more radical explanation: that the reptiles may have reproduced in a completely unknown way. Pachypleurosaurids are only one of several strange and short-lived groups of reptile now seen as evolutionary experiments, only a few of which (but particularly the dinosaurs) survived to become dominant in the Upper Triassic.

The standard view of how reptiles reproduced is based on what is known about the biology of dinosaurs and modern reptiles such as crocodiles. But things could have been very different in the early eons of reptilian evolution.

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THE PARKINSON PLAN

The Energy Secretary has steered a skilful course through the political minefield that lay between his commitment to privatize electricity supply and a means of doing so that will both leave those supplies secure and make the industry more accountable to the customer through competition and regulation. But he is unlikely to emerge from his journey unscathed.

He originally had two overriding, but potentially conflicting political priorities. The first was to ensure much greater competition than has emerged from the privatization of British Telecom or British Gas. The second was to protect the nuclear programme against the likely aversion of investors to its high capital costs and perceived risks.

The privatization of electricity was also bound to have profound effects on the British coal industry. Here Mr Parkinson needed to discipline the industry's costs by allowing freedom to import coal while offering British Coal alternative markets to that of its dominant customer, the Central Electricity Generating Board.

His solution is an ingenious compromise. Competition is to be promoted at three levels. Removing the national transmission grid from the CEBG was essential for transparently fair competition among generators. Splitting the CEBG into two will ensure at least one viable competing generator.

Mr Parkinson has also rightly insisted on converting the twelve regional electricity distribution boards into separate companies. They will inevitably have local commercial monopolies, but comparison of their costs and service will allow a regulator to impose the equivalent of competition between them. The benefits could be considerable.

At the same time, Mr Parkinson has left the CEBG as an enormous company sufficiently powerful in the market to shoulder the risks of building nuclear power stations in search of ultimate financial reward. And, if he has calculated correctly, the CEBG will still have Lord Marshall at the helm, licking his wounds but still committed to an ambitious nuclear programme he is ideally suited to carry out.

On the way, however, Mr Parkinson has surely made a mistake by opting for a double guarantee that the Prime Minister's strategic priority to build nuclear power stations is

satisfied. Under the White Paper proposals, electricity boards, which will have the all-important legal obligation to maintain supplies, would have to buy a set proportion from nuclear sources.

If pursued, this would give powerful ammunition to the anti-nuclear lobby because it implies that the Government has abandoned the traditional argument for nuclear power: that it is cheaper. It also implies that nuclear power is vital to the nation's energy security while production of plentiful indigenous coal is not. For British coal, rather than enjoying a guarantee, will be open to replacement by imports, probably on a large scale.

The nuclear guarantee, moreover, enhances the greatest risk in Mr Parkinson's proposals: that they will raise electricity prices, making the drive for competition pointless. The CEBG's monopoly in nuclear power is likely to be reinforced, for customers are guaranteed and competition unlikely. Unless regulation is detailed and onerous, Lord Marshall and his successors will be able to strike a hard bargain with the distributors when new nuclear capacity is needed.

Mr Parkinson's commendable innovation of putting the customer first instead of maximizing privatization proceeds could also backfire. Investors are not likely to want to buy shares in the companies without high returns.

As far as the two generating companies are concerned, investors will be wary of the risks of cyclical profits in one case and (however mistakenly) of the high nuclear content in the other. Since these companies have no obligation to provide electricity, they would only build the new power stations required on contracts that offered much higher returns than the Government demands from the CEBG. The risk to investors can only too easily require higher electricity prices to consumers.

In the short term, consumers should gain from cheaper coal prices as competition forces British Coal to supply at nearer to world prices. It is not axiomatic that Britain will continue to enjoy cheaper electricity than most of Europe or North America in ten years time. That will only happen if the tendency for bulk electricity prices to rise is offset by greater efficiency, particularly in the new distribution companies. Fortunately, there is plenty of scope for that.

A TRUST ILL KEPT

No one should have been altogether surprised that the Conservative MP, Mr Jonathan Aitken, arranged for Saudi Arabian investment in the early morning television channel, TV-am. As *The Times* noted in 1983, "his millionaire status comes from his assiduous cultivation of Arab business". And, as the article went on, "it is the breadth of the Aitken's financial interests and their dependence upon the Arabs that may provoke the wrath of the Independent Broadcasting Authority".

No wrath was, of course, ever provoked — for the very simple reason that the IBA never had the suspicions confirmed. Mr Aitken is now contrite. He has resigned from the board. He accepts that he gave the confidentiality of his Saudi Arabian backers too great a priority over the candour he owed to his fellow directors.

"Although not legally required to do so," he says, "it would have been wise to have told the board in 1981 that they were having Saudi finance." It would, indeed.

It is still hard to disentangle precisely how Mr Aitken has treated the disclosure rules that are rightly imposed by independent television's regulators. Why the Saudis would want a secret investment in TV-am is also not known. If, as has been speculated, it was part of a larger attempt to improve the image of Arab society after the diplomatic row over the "Death of a Princess" programme, the exercise must be judged an embarrassing failure.

The newly disclosed ownership arrange-

ments — which may have provided the sustenance that kept TV-am alive in its darkest days in 1983 — will have to be carefully assessed when the Independent Broadcasting Authority meets next Thursday. But even if TV-am is judged not to have breached regulations in the 1981 Broadcasting Act, the IBA should surely be angry that it was told only two weeks ago that Saudi interests spoke for a sizeable stake in the company.

The involvement of a Conservative MP in the executive management of a television station was always itself a matter of controversy. As Mr Aitken disarmingly admitted himself during last year's election campaign "my involvement with this particular part of the media leads me to believe that substantial numbers of floating voters can be moved by these early programmes".

Even before these latest disclosures, Mr Aitken was not considered a candidate for office in government. But that was not for any sinister reason. It was more because of his buccannery egotism which, among his many illustrious forebears, recalls not so much the great Lord Beaverbrook as the 19th century Postmaster-General of Canada who was fired for putting his own head on the stamps.

As a prominent Conservative MP, well known for his vigorous iconoclasm and strong views about the freedom of the press, it will have been taken on trust that Mr Aitken accepted the spirit of broadcasting regulation, not just its letter. That is a trust which has not been well kept.

MR GORBACHOV'S REPUBLICS

Mass public demonstrations of support are events which the Soviet Communist Party has been skilful at staging since its earliest days in power. Spontaneous street protests, like those seen over the past week in the Republic of Armenia, are a different proposition and will sound alarms at the heart of the Soviet system.

On the face of it, the present unrest in the Caucasus might be dismissed as no more than a local squall in a frequently troubled and ethnically jumbled part of the Russian — now Soviet — empire. A small mountain region, Nagorno-Karabakh, populated mainly by Armenians, has been under the administrative jurisdiction of the neighbouring Soviet republic of Azerbaijan since 1923. Now, it appears, the Armenians of the mountain enclave, supported by their compatriots in the Armenian Republic, have asked for the border between the two republics to be redrawn so that Armenians govern Armenians.

What to outsiders may look like an obscure special case, however, looks far more menacing in Moscow. The Kremlin's difficulty is that if the unrest is not quelled peacefully, the demonstrations which have disrupted life in the Armenian capital of Yerevan could be replicated in many other parts of the country where historical grievances have been nursed for decades. Last week, apprised perhaps of events in Armenia, Mr Gorbachov announced that the next full meeting of the party Central Committee would discuss nationalities policy.

That people in any part of the Soviet Union, however strong their feelings and however independent of Moscow by tradition, should join a public protest in their thousands is, in a way, a tribute to the change in atmosphere in the Soviet Union since Mr Gorbachov became a leader. The past 18 months have witnessed a plethora of street demonstrations by groups dissatisfied with their treatment by Moscow. Kazakhs protested against the replacement of their party leader by a Russian; Crimean

Tatars, displaced from their homeland by Stalin, brought their cause to Red Square; successive anniversaries in the Baltic states have been marked by public protests and vigils — the latest only this week in Estonia.

Yet the authorities still find such protests an embarrassment. They threaten the public discipline by which the party sets so much store and they bring to the surface tensions — between communists and non-communists, Russians and non-Russians — which the Kremlin would prefer to discuss in private, if at all. Where, as in many cases, anti-Russian and anti-communist sentiments reinforce each other, they are doubly disturbing to Moscow.

Official Soviet policy towards ethnic minorities, which together make up nearly half the population, has been to proclaim absolute equality while retaining Russian supremacy. A limited cultural and linguistic autonomy has been permitted, with the preservation of colourful folk traditions encouraged so long as they are short of nationalistic content. This policy is often resented by those who like their culture alive rather than mummified.

If Mr Gorbachov is serious, either about allowing greater freedom of expression or about revising the official version of Soviet history to bring it closer to the truth, then protest demonstrations are something the Soviet leadership will have to get used to. People in many of the peripheral regions of the USSR have their own memories of the past 70 years which have little in common with the views perpetuated even now by Moscow. Glasnost is worth little if they cannot present their views, in their own language, when they wish.

The alternative could be an upsurge of unrest throughout the non-Russian regions of the Soviet Union. Fanned in the Central Asian republics by Islam and a rising birth-rate, elsewhere by nationalist aspirations, it might rapidly run out of control.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A blindfold for democracy?

From Mr Richard Cottrell, MEP for Bristol and Bath (European Democratic Conservative)

Sir, It would appear that, following the Peace of Brussels, the nations of the EEC are now firmly on the road to 1992. By that date we shall at last grasp the elusive goal of the custodians of the Treaty of Rome have sought for 30 years, the seamless internal market. Unless we are very careful, we shall also extinguish democracy and unleash upon the people of Europe the rule of an insensitive bureaucracy.

There is a large and growing democratic deficit in the affairs of the EEC. By 1992 there will be a yawning chasm between the governed and the governors. Taking Britain as the example, control of our daily lives will pass almost exclusively from elected MPs at Westminster to the unelected bureaucrats of Brussels.

MPs are already compelled to pass on the back of a host of legislation emanating from Brussels. If they do not swallow the medicine, the European Court takes charge of the spoon. The mandarins of the European Commission are already, in effect, ruling by decree. Westminster has again beaten its fist against the resolute doors of the common agricultural policy yet is powerless to impose reform, because sovereignty over agriculture has long since crossed the water.

The much-vaunted Single European Act has actually reduced the opportunity for democratic control, because it concentrates even more power in the hands of the Commission at the expense of the Council of Ministers.

Sadly, too many Euro MPs are so utterly intoxicated by the vision of 1992 that they cannot see the steady erosion of democratic control taking place all around them. Apart from its consistent failure to confront the agricultural problem, the Parliament has failed to mount an effective challenge to the Commission, the executive — and, increasingly, the political — powerhouse of the Community.

Strasbourg was bought off with a bundle, the illusory tribute offered in the Single European Act: the votes so attached are now invested with the strange pious significance of an offering. Regrettably, the actual conclusions are ignored, much as they were before, because the Parliament remains effectively shackled by its inability to control the executive. Next year's election addresses must cry danger to the people of Europe, because a blindfold is being prepared for democracy as 1992 approaches.

It must be correct that completion of the internal market will represent a major transition in the progress of Europe towards a unified identity. But equally, it will also represent a major constitutional upheaval, for if economic union really is achieved, then logic teaches that political union cannot lag far behind. Perhaps the fabled United States of Europe really is at hand. If so, we are pitifully unprepared for it. Yours faithfully,

RICHARD COTTRELL, Dean House, Chiswick Road, Bover Ashdon, Bristol, Avon, February 24.

Laws and copyright

From the President of the Society of Public Teachers of Law

Sir, It is a long-standing principle of the common law that "the individual is presumed to know the law". Consistent with that is the principle that all sources of the law should be freely accessible to members of the public — whether they be texts of statutes and other forms of legislation, codes of practice, practice directions, departmental circulars or the judgments of the courts.

Yet, the Copyright, Designs and Patents Bill seeks to reserve copyright in the law to the Crown. As the Bill reaches its final parliamentary stages, can our legislators not be persuaded to remove the restriction and the inconsistency?

Yours faithfully, H. K. BEVAN (President, Society of Public Teachers of Law), University of Hull, The Law School, Cottingham Road, Hull, Humberside, February 20.

War on drugs

From Mr Malcolm Deas, Sir, I share much of Connor Cruise O'Brien's scepticism about the "war on drugs" but would like to issue with some parts of his article (February 17).

"Serious thinking" about Colombia and Panama would not lead one to conclude that their "influence on the social life of the entire United States" is so vast. Dr O'Brien's phrasing implies that Colombians and Panamanians corrupt the citizens of the United States. That is hardly serious thinking.

As a citizen of Eire, Dr O'Brien might be expected also to show less enthusiasm for that activity when it is a matter of large nations reaching their own conclusions about what is good for small neighbours. The results are rarely either practical or happy.

Yours sincerely, MALCOLM DEAS, St Antony's College, Oxford, February 17.

War crimes inquiry

From Professor Graham Zelik

Sir, The Home Secretary's appointment of an inquiry into war crimes (report, February 9) is to be welcomed, but in my judgment it is a serious error to defer any decision as to whether to change the law so as to confer on the British courts jurisdiction to try these crimes until the inquiry is complete.

In the event that the inquiry concludes that there is sufficient evidence available to justify prosecution, changes in the law will be required to deal with particular cases already identified. To assert jurisdiction in respect of identifiable potential defendants, and in effect for them alone, would not only be unprecedented in English law, but would also appear particularly oppressive.

The jurisdiction of the criminal courts must be determined on principle. If it is right that those who have committed murders abroad and have subsequently acquired British citizenship should, if extradition is not available, be amenable to punishment here, that change should be introduced. It would take only the simplest amendment to section 9 of the Offences against the Person Act 1861, which already makes punishable murders committed abroad by British subjects.

Alternatively, the change could be confined to those murders which constitute war crimes, or to

Future of NHS

From Mr Gordon McLachlan

Sir, In your leading article today (February 20) drawing attention to the Prime Minister's caution in her response to the 1986 report, you point to the fact that possible candidates for new arrangements, "two revenue-raising departments and the administration of social security" have been ignored.

In the light of the current and perhaps most urgent debate for many years, the future of the NHS and the widespread call for radical action, it is more curious that the NHS function of the DHSS has been ignored, since it is quite clear that the service has not been managed at national level for the 40 years of its existence.

It is, of course, true that there is now a NHS Management Board, albeit with limited powers and only concerned with the hospital service, but it would be difficult to find anyone who believes it has much of a significant operational role in relation to the NHS.

Indeed the NHS is perhaps the most important instance of the near impossibility of the Civil Servants under the present arrangements, Janus-like in their attitudes to the Treasury and the NHS to manage the development of a complex, interrelated series of personal services the performance of which directly affects the population as a whole as well as individuals in their capacities of patients, voters and taxpayers.

The Prime Minister is understood to be urging radical thinking about the NHS. There is, however, a vast difference between radical thinking and action which may have sweeping effects at the personal, patient level and which would instead be introduced incrementally, in effect be revolutionary.

A first, relatively painless step to detach the management of the NHS from the DHSS which would involve the minimum of legislation would concentrate minds wonderfully on how health services should be financed, organised and operated in a modern, caring society, and lead to sensible reforms of which most people would approve.

Yours faithfully, GORDON McLACHLAN, 95 Ravenscroft Road, W6, February 20.

offences under the Genocide Act 1969. Again the amendments to the law would not be difficult.

To the objection that this offends the principle against retrospective criminal punishment, there are two answers. First, the change would be purely procedural, giving to a British court the jurisdiction to deal with conduct unquestionably criminal at the time.

Secondly, even if that were not the case, the principle has no application to war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide, as such instruments as the European Convention on Human Rights (art. 7), the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights (art. 15 (2)), and, more recently, the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms (s. 11 (g)) demonstrate.

Finally, it is to be noted that there are other recent examples of extending jurisdiction over crimes committed abroad even by non-nationals. The Aviation Security Act 1982 (hijacking) and the Suppression of Terrorism Act 1978 both set aside the traditional rules of territoriality. There are some crimes which by their nature or enormity should be subject to universal jurisdiction.

Yours faithfully, GRAHAM ZELICK, Queen Mary College, University of London, Faculty of Law, Mile End Road, E1, February 15.

Burden on young away from home

From Mrs D. J. Stevens

Sir, It is fairly widely known that, as from April this year, people in receipt of housing benefit will have to pay 20 per cent of the general rates themselves, but perhaps not general knowledge that they will also have to pay water rates in full. Even less appreciated is the fact that, at the same time, the change from supplementary benefit to "income support" will reduce weekly benefit payments for under-25-year-olds from £30.40 to £26.05 per week.

Thus, in an average London borough, assuming general rates of about £7 per week for a one-bedroom flat and water rates of around £1 per week (both lowish assumptions), young people under 25 will have to pay an extra £2.40 p.w. out of their reduced entitlement, leaving them just £23.65 p.w. to meet all other expenses, including food, heating, clothing, etc.

Those over 25 will not fare much better — their income from £30.40 to £33.40 p.w. will thereby almost disappear; 16 and 17-year-olds, by the way, will no longer be entitled to any benefit at all.

Of course, the above assumes that people actually have their own accommodation. Perhaps this Government thinks that young people should stay with their parents until the age of 25? It is already so difficult for un-

employed people or those on low incomes to find accommodation in London, that organisations such as the one I work for, which provide low-cost temporary housing, have almost permanently closed waiting lists.

Such measures as those outlined above can only lead to many of our members building up arrears, giving our organisation the choice of suffering substantial budget cuts, raising licence fees for all members (thus creating hardship for more of those on low incomes) or prosecuting and evicting the very people most in need of inexpensive accommodation.

How can this attack on a young and vulnerable section of our society be justified? Many of the people affected have moved to London from depressed areas in search of work, just as the Government advises. How many of the honourable members of her Majesty's Government would like to take a 25 per cent cut in income, or live on £23.65 p.w.?

Yours faithfully, DIANE STEVENS, 51 Villiers Road, NW2, February 22.

ON THIS DAY

FEBRUARY 26 1943

The writer describes the new Arakan campaign as "our first step back into Burma". Heavy fighting lay ahead: it was nearly two years before the Allies recaptured Akyab, the enemy's main base in Arakan.

WAR IN ARAKAN COMPLEXITIES OF THE BURMA CAMPAIGN

From Our Special Correspondent

Arakan Front, Feb 26

There is no end to surprise in this land of incongruous extremes, where the weapons of war range from the modern bomber and armoured fighting vehicle to the assegai and blowpipe used by local levies with private scores of their own to settle, who are operating on both sides. So-called streamers that one might imagine winding under an arch of jungle trees, turn out to be broad waterways wide than the Thames at London. Bridges with fast, muddy banks where wild animal and bird life abounds. Anchored in one of them the other night we were hailed by a dinghy. It carried a young naval officer who wished to come aboard to have a smoke. His own boat carried a large quantity of aviation fuel, and, as he said, that was no place at all to smoke.

You can fly from Calcutta to the forward areas in a few hours; but by land and water the journey takes five days or more — arduous days along jolting earth roads and timber bridges, driven through many miles south of Chittagong, days spent in a paddle steamer or river launch, or perhaps a aquastream sampans, propelled by leaning on the oars instead of pulling them, whose design is just what it was centuries ago. It is this disjointed supply line, with its arresting tides and towering cable ladders, its ferries and improvised jetties, that largely shapes the forward operation, though the demand now being made upon it cannot have been foreseen two months ago. All the way down by day and night thousands of tons of ammunition, food and medical supplies are being manhandled from train and steamer to truck and sampan; the requirements are even all small force in the field are insatiable.

COOL GALLANTRY

The brigaded Bren carriers have become themselves with cool gallantry on several occasions. This time one of them became ditched in an enemy nullah, itself mercifully in dead ground. The gunners put down smoke to enable the crew to come in, but the commander, a young subaltern, refused to leave his two companions were wounded. Having seen them taken in at night he went on to spend several hours alone reconnoitering the Japanese positions and brought back much useful information.

Sometimes streaks of Japanese red tracer bullets flashed across us into the hills, where Indian infantry had established themselves securely on the enemy's flank. Down there, too, crouching in a fold of the ground, was a section of Sikh engineers, under a British officer, already preparing to push on with the road. There was an Army chaplain, too, waiting to bury the dead who have lain near the Japanese lines for days. Most of the fighting was in woods, which were being steadily cleared of the enemy by Indian troops descending on his flank and the ground gained in this typical action should bring the fall of Dombak much nearer. But the men have to be supplied and relieved; there are bound to be pauses. I had met the Commander and several of his staff officers during the last operation in Waziristan. A great contrast to the barren wilds of the North West Frontier than this sequestered desolation of jungle ridges could hardly be found.

Family courts

From Mrs Yvonne Craig

Sir, Your welcome correspondence about understanding marital stress ironically coincides with the sad news of the likelihood that the Lord Chancellor is not going to introduce full scale family courts in the near future, which would be another instance of us being more backward than the great nations, and even small poor Commonwealth countries like Jamaica.

An essential element of family courts, the conciliation service, must be maintained where it already functions in magistrates' and county courts, and also in National Family Conciliation Council services.

However, these are not universal, and only exist where local initiatives by the courts and probation services, and in the community, receive adequate funding.

Yet conciliation services must be made fully comprehensive as the ultimate remedy for families considering break-up after unresolved marital stress.

For the best statistics show that up to 10 per cent of these can be reconciled, and that 80 per cent at least reach an amicable agreement about custody and access in the best interests of the children.

When I sit as chairman of a domestic court, I am painfully aware of the inappropriateness of the adversarial system in dealing with marital problems which need mediation, not polarization.

Yours sincerely, YVONNE CRAIG, 27 Ridgmount Gardens, Bloomsbury, WCI, February 13.

Religion in schools

From Mr Harry Greenway, MP for Ealing North (Conservative)

Sir, It is clear that the position of religious education in schools is growing weaker every day, despite the legal requirement that the subject be taught in every school in the land. At the same time we witness continuing violence in society and a situation in which growing numbers of children are not being taught the difference between right and wrong. It is, therefore, right to persist with efforts to have RE written into the core curriculum, being established by the Education Reform Bill.

The public have been assured that they can complain that the law is being flouted, under the terms of the Bill, if they are dissatisfied with RE teaching in a school, but this is a worthless power. Previous complaints that vital subjects like mathematics were not being taught in schools were not taken further by the DES, once it had been established that the local authority responsible was using best endeavours to have the subject taught by seeking to recruit teachers for the job — however unsuccessfully.

Again, it is being argued that the secretary of state would have to take charge of the RE curriculum in a school rather than its governors, as he will with the existing 10 core curriculum subjects. Surely, this responsibility could be delegated to school governors for RE, provided that the secretary of state could oversee things through HM Inspectorate. The chance of strengthening and renewing this most key subject should not be missed.

Yours etc, HARRY GREENWAY, House of Commons.

Living together

From Mrs Anne Ferris

Sir, My mother, a Limerick woman, had a word for the free spirits who partnered nice girls of her acquaintance (letters, February 16, 23). "And how", she would enquire amiably, "is your fiancé?"

Yours etc, ANNE FERRIS, Maple Cottage, Stody, Melton Constable, Norfolk, February 23.

THE ARTS

Telling truths

Some documentary makers make statements about themselves disguised as statements about the world. Some make documentaries as though they were movies, manipulating the small pieces of ordinary lives until they acquire the artificial symmetry of drama. And some make documentaries that try to tell the truth about remarkable moments in the lives of otherwise unremarkable people, without artificial ornament or artifice.

The BBC's Harry Weisbloom is a member of that third and very precious category. For years he's been making fine documentaries

TELEVISION

about unglamorous subjects: the ill, the handicapped, the imprisoned, the divorced, the emotionally wounded.

In the age of the self-interested viewer, Weisbloom insists on producing the sensitive conscience. But his programmes are more than cries of protest; they are just as often celebrations, in a minor key, of heroic behaviour by unlikely people.

To its eternal credit, 40 Minutes, BBC's award-winning documentary series, has not only given Weisbloom a home, it has given him his head, encouraging him to make the kind of compassionate social cameo films he does so well. Last night's film, *Annie Doesn't Work Here Any More* (BBC2) was typical: an unusual perspective on an urgently topical subject, the nursing crisis.

Weisbloom's astute thought was to follow a Manchester nurse as she went into exile, working in a private hospital in Los Angeles for three times her British pay. Apart from businness the price she paid for her new status was, oddly enough, a loss of responsibility.

It was a good night for the professionals. This week's Denis Tuohy, one of the best reporters anywhere, was in powerful form with his disturbing report on the failure of the BHSS to serve the needs of the most vulnerable. *Falling From the Sky* (ITV).

Michael Dean

Budd brought to bloom

OPERA

Paul Griffiths welcomes English National Opera's first ever production of Benjamin Britten's *Billy Budd*, a very cogent interpretation

DONALD COOPER



Lusty frankness in the face of thoughtful eloquence: Thomas Allen (left) as Billy Budd and Philip Langridge as Captain Vere

The English National Opera's first production of *Billy Budd* bids fair in every way to reinforce the view that this is the most personal and profound of Britten's operas. It is certainly not the most perfect: perfection is perhaps not to be sought in a work so conscious of Original Sin.

Nor is it the most consistent: for consistency too is a victim to its awareness of the risks, pretences and impossibilities in any achievement of the will. Indeed, the dissonances of tone and style, as well as the erotic charge, go to make it the troubled masterpiece it is.

Britten's dilemma is that of Captain Vere, that of being true to an individual vision of rightness as well as to a culture with its own highly developed system of rules and conventions. The occasion — not to mention the preference of his librettist E.M. Forster — demanded of him a grand opera as imposing, tradition-bound and disciplined as a ship of Nelson's navy.

And this he provided. Quite apart from the big choral tableaux, the work is full of openly manufactured little numbers, to the extent that many of the characters (Vere's brother officers, for instance) appear to have no consciousness of themselves as independent agents.

Earlier productions have tended to respond to the artificiality of setting and style by emulating the one in the other, so that the musical patterns can be explained as naval decorum and good seamanship: the officers sound like puppets because they express themselves as men in uniform. But Tim Albery at the Coliseum has, with the help of his designers, Tom Cairns and Antony McDonald, undermined naturalism and left us, disquietingly, with a semi-abstract world, a world in which the full show of sea warfare can be rushed into action for a splendid staging of the chase scene, but in which generally the picture is not quite developed, left

hesitant and aloof like much of the music.

The main stage is tilted at an angle of about 15 degrees, providing on the practical level an answer to the vertical hierarchy of decks and ranks, and on the poetic level an image of expressionist skewness that is emphasized by the strong, rudimentary suggestions of a ship, by the drop curtain of scratched slats

black, by the splashed purple and blue of the background, and by the costumes. The deckhands change to naval blue and white for the chase, which in the moment when the opera pulls itself together to work effectively as grand spectacle, but for the most part they are in nondescript mid-grey, the colour echoing the depressed uncertainty that gives the work its point.

It is considerably less useful to have the aged Vere got up as Forster: not only does this make nonsense of some of the text (Forster a man of action?), it reduces the identification of character and author to plumb-creases. It also puts an avoidable obstacle in the way of Philip Langridge's Vere, which is every bit as thoughtful as one might have expected from Hilary Finch's interview

with him here on Wednesday. This Vere is a man quick in action, enjoying action in a wholly undemonstrative way, but enjoying too the action of thought, and agonized only in his later, remonstrating soliloquy. What we see within the frame as a young man with confidence of his ability to captain his heart as efficiently as he captains his ship; he wants to Billy — one hears it in his

Neatly spirited

BBC SO/
Zagrosek
Barbican Hall

Writing tuba concertos. Vaughan Williams reputedly remarked: "It's not a job for the artistic. However, he wrote an excellent one, and in 1986 Jonathan Harvey wrote another. If there were tuba concerto Olympics, Britain would be winning gold medals."

Harvey's *Lightness and Weight*, which received its London premiere on Wednesday

CONCERTS

day night, faces squarely to what one might call the "tubby tuba" syndrome. Initially it makes a virtue of the instrument's mass and menace, with an emphasis on subterranean orchestral sonorities and fat, angry interjections by this tragicomic giant.

Then the soloist simply breaks free: upwards, into that remarkably delicate tenor register. Here Harvey writes a kind of aria that is almost lyrical.

Since the work was written for Melvyn Poore, a brilliant exponent of avant-garde techniques, one expected rather more "special effects" than Harvey provides. But the conventional tuba writing is offset ingeniously against some ear-catching orchestral backgrounds.

Poore played expertly, and Lothar Zagrosek guided the BBC Symphony Orchestra neatly through the score.

Earlier, too, Zagrosek was flexible and persuasive in Frank Bridge's rarely-heard rhapsody, *Enter Spring*, though some scrappy brass playing marred the concluding changes of this jolly score.

Bridge's rhythms vary in retrospect: semi-quantitative by 1920s standards, but his structures have a fascinating multiplicity of detail, including some mutually conversational, bird-calls for the woodwind.

Tippett's First Symphony also stands the test of time well, particularly where it is at its most baroque: the opening movement's incessant polyphony, the piling-up of crushing harmonies in the chakobhe, and the gloriously flowery strains which launch the finale's double fugue. For all its obsession with archaic forms, this 1940s piece seems less calculating and more spontaneous, lyrical than most other neo-classical works of this era.

The BBC violins suck to Tippett's awfully asymmetrical, high-flying lines with only minor fuffs. Zagrosek propelled the music along spiritedly.

Richard Morrison

Philharmonia/
Sinopoli
Festival Hall

The year of the 50th anniversary of the *Aschbacher* is no bad time to be reminded of Berg's *Lulu*. With the presence to participate the prescription of his opera under Nazi occupation, the composer made a symphonic suite from fragments of the score.

The fragments are truly symphonic in their evolutionary portrait of Lulu. Mahler's *Serenade* has been cited in comparison. That impression, though, was not appropriate in Giuseppe Sinopoli's interpretation; but if he failed to galvanize entirely the five movements, there was much to be gained from the cumulative energy of his reading, particularly in the Variations.

The opening Rondo's Andante and Hymn showed some sensitive mixture and matching on the part of the Philharmonia's soloists: their reptile-like movement, sliding in and out of focus, vividly recreated Lulu's predatory experiences.

As for the lady herself, Julia Conwell impressed by the sheer simplicity of her apology. Her "Lulu's song" had the measure of its vocal heights and depths even if the final invocation of Countess Geschwitz came somewhat short of the ecstatic.

As if to continue the idea of symphonic synthesis, each half of the evening began with a Wagner overture. *Tannhäuser* was treated rather literally, as a mark with the opera itself at Bayreuth. Sinopoli simply did not have the weight and measure, this time, of its change in textures and tempos and *Der fliegende Holländer*, too, was given something of a rough ride.

John Lill gave a performance of Beethoven's Third Piano Concerto of which the relentless logic was literally hammered home, softening only by a smattering of predictable mannerisms.

Hilary Finch

Challenge to conscience

THEATRE

You Can't Stop
the Revolution
Young Vic

Coinciding with the South African government's latest anti-democratic clampdown, this production of Durban's Upstairs Theatre Company is everything you would expect from its title.

Having launched the story of Steve Biko on the South African stage, the director Saira Essa assembled a dossier of interviews from women and children on the streets of Soweto as the basis for this sequel on the policing of the country's townships. The result is a catalogue of sickening brutalities, punctuated with music and film clips.

It begins with scenes of white South Africa enjoying its segregated pleasures, then a boy quietly describes a police interrogation including an invitation to burn himself to death, after which the company bound on for a jolly high-kicking dance (to superb drumming from Dumisani Ngubane) as though they had not a care in the world.

The company are appealing to the international conscience. But who precisely is out from watching them? Fellow blacks and active sympathizers of course; but also plenty of people who buy South African oranges. The atmosphere, therefore, is that of high-energy agit-prop in which the spectators keep changing from friend to enemy.

At one moment a line of dancers will be trying to link hands with the people on the

front row; then the smiles vanish and somebody declares: "We need to see your accounts to see how much you are robbing us". A repeated call, "Please give us justice", rings out through the early scenes. By the end this has become a demand for vengeance.

Given the experiences recounted here, the company would have to be superhuman to resist that demand; equally, it would be idle to pretend that an obsessive hymn of hate adds up to much of a theatrical event. Its real vitality is musical: as in a marvellously elaborated version of the gumboot dance, incorporating a different work mime for every member of the company, and in passages of choric lament in which these eight voices become the sound of a suffering nation.

Irving Wardle

OPERA

Slight,
but not
lacking
charm

Bitter Sweet
Sadler's Wells

No matter that the story is tissue-thin — little more than the scrap paper of the operetta plot book. It is Noël Coward's songs that catch the heart. Whenever the orchestra hints at a familiar phrase, the familiar words slip into place, permitting us to be nostalgic about songs that are themselves exquisite studies in nostalgia.

Ian Judge's sturdy production is the first professional London revival since the Drury Lane premiere in 1929. The orchestrations (Michael Reed) are strong in woodwind and brass and even though low on strings the character of the sound is romantic. There is also a period flavour, detectable without being overdone.

Romance is the stuff of operetta — or to use Coward's favoured term for this piece, *Operette*. Convention requires the romance to be a passion that triumphs over death, enacted by characters of whom a significant number are drawn from the leisureed classes, and the story must take at least one trip to central Europe.

Coward's scenario contains these essential elements. Society girl Sari, about to be married from Belgrave Square to a pompous diplomat, runs off with the Austrian pianist who has inflamed her heart. In Vienna they can their Pfennigs performing in the Café Schlick, where a drunk officer propositions her and kills the pianist. Years afterwards, she returns to London, older and valiant, to recall her life story for a young girl, this time in Grosvenor Square, but who is nonetheless in love with another young piano player.

Not only is this slight, but the crucial events in Vienna could be told in a song and a half, while Act III is scarcely more than an occasion for two jolly revue numbers and a musical *soirée*. But such is Coward's dramatic skill that he provides a string of charming, amusing, delicate instruments to carry the evening



Sweet moment: Valerie Masterson gripped by Martin Smith

along, thematically linking the end of one scene with the start of the next, and introducing a most arresting break with convention in the Act I fight.

In this scene Sari has been blindfolded by her giggling cousins and inevitably ends up in Carl's arms. Their declaration of love is not performed when alone in a shadowy room but in front of the six stunned girls, who rightly do not join in the final love song.

Valerie Masterson performs the role of Sari for the first of London's two First Nights, and will be alternating in the role with Ann Mackay. Masterson has a clear strong voice that has no need of a throat microphone. It seemed to me that somewhere in "Zigzag" the microphones failed and her voice showed itself perfectly capable of reaching row F in the dress circle and doubtless to rows further back.

Martin Smith's Carl I found of lighter weight, though giving able support to "I'll See You Again" with its gorgeous pause in the line "Time may hang heavy — between: the most romantic pause in operetta.

Over in Vienna we have a

spirited quartet of Cockney lads of the town, who may be Hansi and Gussie but they are Hansi from Hackney and Gussie from Gidea Park.

The Mason of Rosemary Ash sings "If Love Were All" — sometimes (though ludicrously) regarded as Coward's personal declaration — and every word is heard, every internal rhyme, and Coward's lyrics are too good to be muzzled over, as sometimes happens.

Coward's melodic gift reached its peak in this show, with its gipsy music, drinking song, witty jokes about life gay. Nineties and the waltzes that, once heard, are imperishable. The complex patterns of his lyrics — sometimes, as in "If Love Were All" producing rhymes after several lines have passed — are little works of art.

The lighting plan should be overhauled to end the impression that London's squares are troubled excessively by solar eclipses. Otherwise, the show is enchanting, survives the 60-year interval successfully, and the frocks are lovely.

Jeremy Kingston

Fife's finest

ROCK

The Proclaimers
National, Kilburn

Is much the same way that the punks signalled their dislike of American cultural hegemony in rock by singing with strong cockney accents, so the Proclaimers from Scotland have in turn rolled out the "R" and flattened all vowels, in defiance of the English traits which they feel have swamped their indigenous musical culture.

However, as the unaccompanied duo worked its way through a vigorous and affecting set, it was clear that Charlie and Craig Reid, the twins from Auchtermuchty in Fife, have used their robust voices to do more than simply focus attention on the mixture of pride and despair which they feel for their heritage. With instrumental support limited to Charlie's acoustic guitar and Craig's sparse embellishments on tambourine, bongos and harmonica there was little to distract attention from the extraordinarily original and versatile interaction of the two voices.

These were often to be found soaring together in harmony, as in the ballad "Misty Blue", but also kept up a telepathic dialogue of interlocking whoops, yells and yodelling skirls notably during the coda of "Beautiful Truth" and last year's hit, "Letter From America" — which gave the impression of a much bigger ensemble at work.

With their clean-cut, bespectacled look, the two lean figures were plainly lit against a stark background that reflected an austere streak of Calvinist discipline in their performance. There was not so much as one twirl of Craig's tambourine surplus to intent.

Such concentration was matched by a pungent intensity, in some ways redolent of the norms of gospel performance, which explained why, with a folk music set-up, the brothers are able to command the affection of a rock audience. Although a somewhat one-dimensional sound, a Proclaimers concert is an emotional experience of surprising character and depth.

David Sinclair

Over-simplified story

Vengeance
Tara Arts

The touring Tara Arts Group, based at this studio theatre in Earlsfield, have won plaudits for their blend of traditional Indian performance arts and sharp social and political commentary in the Brechtian mode.

I can see why: the use of space and costume is consistently inventive and attractive, the acting is bold and assured and the occasional burst of unaccompanied song or chant by turns exhilarating and soothing.

While admiring the zest of

its performance, though, I have serious reservations about the validity of Tara's marriage of styles in the case of this new work by Baldev Bahl. It is based on the true story of Uddam Singh, a witness of the Amritsar massacre of 1919 who, 21 years later, assassinated its chief perpetrator, Sir Michael O'Dwyer, at a meeting in Wandsworth.

The problem, for me, is that Uddam Singh is presented mainly as a semi-mythological hero. True, one of the early scenes shows him struggling to accept this awesome mantle with a mixture of callow idealism, reluctance and self-mockery, but the sense of struggle disappears too quickly.

Uddam Singh's political quest (he travelled widely, from Russia to America via Ireland, making links with revolutionary movements) is covered at breakneck speed in an abbreviated jokey style which robs it of sense. The British are presented throughout as patently absurd stereotypes — a tactic which backfires because heroes, surely, need mighty opposites.

Gandhi, presented here as a Liberal backslider, called Uddam Singh a "fanatic" who "resorted to terrorist tactics". The play ends with two questions: first, why will the British government not release the transcript of Uddam Singh's trial? This is a perfectly valid point. Second, who will play the hero now? This is a challenge, though to whom to do what I am not sure.

There are times when a well-aimed bullet may seem like the only way of ending a long period of immovable rule; but I am not sure whether that was the case at Caxton Hall in 1940.

Harry Eyres

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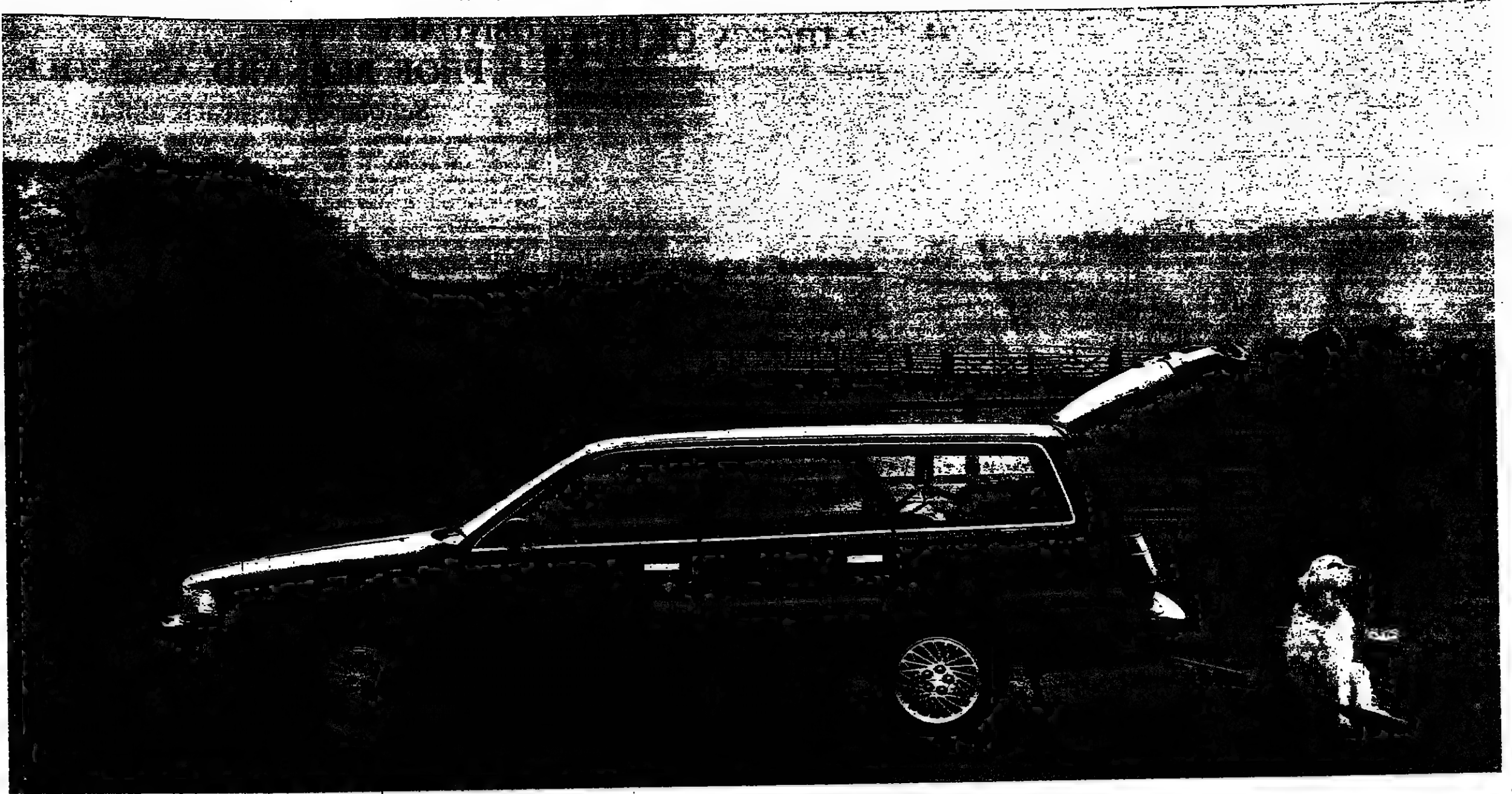
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This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday, followed in the Saturday section by a preview of the week ahead. Items for inclusion should be sent to The Times Information Service, PO Box 7, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN

BOOKING KEY
★ Seats available
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THEATRE
LONDON

★ **THE BEST OF FRIENDS:** Dramatised correspondence between Shaw, a Lady Address, and the director of the Film Museum. Brings dialogue back to the West End stage.
Apollo Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (01-437 2633). Tube: Piccadilly Circus. Tues-Sat 8pm, mat 5pm, £5.50-£15.

★ **HAPOOD:** New Tom Stoppard play on way to West End. Spies, physics and misunderstandings with Nigel Hawthorne, Roger Rees, Felicity Kendal and others.
Wimbledon Theatre, The Broadway, SW19 (01-440 0362). Tube: Wimbledon. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mat 5pm, £5.50-£9.

★ **NANA:** Shared Experience's vigorous production of Zola's tale of decadent abandon in fin de siècle Paris.
Theatre Royal, Puddle Dock, ECA (01-236 5588). Tube: Blackfriars. Mon-Fri 7.30-9.30pm, Sat 8-10pm, mat 4.30-6.30pm, £5.50-£15.

★ **THE POSSIBILITIES:** Ten short plays by Howard Barker, ranging in setting from Biblical times to now.
Almeida Theatre, Almeida Street, W1 (01-389 4404). Tube: High Wycombe. Sat 8-10pm, mat 4.30-6.30pm, £5.50-£15.

★ **SHIRLEY VALENTINE:** New Willy Russell play: outstanding performance by Pauline Collins as the downbeat housewife tempted by a Greek island.
Vauxhall Theatre, Strand, WC2 (01-938 9887). Tube: Charing Cross. Sat 8-10pm, mat 4.30-6.30pm, £5.50-£15.

★ **TIS PITY SHE'S A WHORE:** Rupert Graves and Susan Sylvester play the incestuous lovers in Ford's masterpiece of betrayal and National Theatre (Olivier), South Bank, London SE1 (01-222 2222). Tube: Waterloo. Fri-Sat 8-10pm, mat 4.30-6.30pm, £5.50-£15.

★ **YOU NEVER CAN TELL:** Toby Robertson's starry show, with Michael Hordern, Irene Worth and Michael Denison.
Haymarket Theatre, Haymarket, SW1 (01-930 9832). Tube: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Sat 7.30-9.30pm, mat 5pm, £5.50-£15.

★ **LONG RUNNERS:** Beyond Remembrance Club. Theatre (01-734 1161). ★ **The Business of Murder:** Mayfair Theatre (01-229 3036). ★ **Cats:**

★ **THE LAST EMPIRE:** (15) Bertoldo's gorgeously choreographed epic tells the extraordinary story of Pu Yi, China's last imperial ruler, who tried to become a model Communist leader. With John Lone, and Peter Onorati (18 min).
Odeon Leicester Square (01-520 6111). Progs 12.15, 4.00, 7.45, 11.15.

★ **THE TWO-STARRED SEMI:** (15) A hilarious comedy in high voices in delicate electronic devices. Notable real-time.
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New London Theatre (01-405 0072, cc 01-404 4078). ★ **Chances:** Edward Theatre (01-734 8851). ★ **Follies:** Shaftesbury Theatre (01-379 5393). ★ **42nd Street:** Drury Lane Theatre (01-336 8108/9). ★ **Kiss Me Kate:** Savoy Theatre (01-336 8889). ★ **Les Liaisons Dangereuses:** Ambassadors Theatre (01-336 6111, cc 01-836 1171). ★ **Ma and My Girl:** Adelphi Theatre (01-240 7814). ★ **Les Miserables:** Palace Theatre (01-434 0908). ★ **The Mousetrap:** St Martin's Theatre (01-336 1443). ★ **Phantom of the Opera:** His Majesty's Theatre (01-336 2244). ★ **Run For Your Wife:** Criterion Theatre (01-330 3216). ★ **Serious Money:** Wyndham's Theatre (01-336 3226). ★ **Shogun:** Shaftesbury Theatre (01-336 8889). ★ **And Then There Were None:** Duke of York's Theatre (01-336 5122).

★ **OUT OF TOWN:** BRIGHTON: ★ **A Touch of the East:** The Royal Victoria Theatre (01-336 2244). ★ **Phantom of the Opera:** His Majesty's Theatre (01-336 2244). ★ **Run For Your Wife:** Criterion Theatre (01-330 3216). ★ **Serious Money:** Wyndham's Theatre (01-336 3226). ★ **Shogun:** Shaftesbury Theatre (01-336 8889). ★ **And Then There Were None:** Duke of York's Theatre (01-336 5122).

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Derek Jacobi as the troubled hero, and a lengthy cast of nobles. Written, edited, designed and directed by Christine Edzards (180 min).
Curzon Phoenix (01-240 9681). Progs Part 1: Mon, Wed 12.30, Fri, Sat 2.30, 5.00, 7.30, 10.00. Part 2: Fri, Sat, Sun, Tues 12.30, Mon, Wed 4.00, Sat, Sun, Tues, Thurs 7.30.

★ **NO WAY OUT (15):** Polished version of a film noir classic with a few extra twists. With Gene Hackman and Kevin Costner. Roger Donaldson directs (114 min).
Cannon Chelsea (01-362 5088). Progs 2.00, 5.45, 8.25. Cannon Edwards Road (01-723 6229). Progs 2.45, 5.30, 8.20, 11.20. Cannon Panton Street (01-215, 4.45, 7.15, 9.45). Notting Hill Gate (01-727 6706). Progs 3.30, 6.00, 8.30.

★ **ROBOCOP (15):** Violent, cold-blooded fantasy set in Detroit, with Peter Weller as the police officer reconstituted as an indestructible robot. Directed by Paul Verhoeven, with Nancy Allen (103 min).
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The changing face of Oz

The above illustration from a 1976 edition of Walker's *Hibernal Gazette* was captioned, with more than a dash of irony, "The first Parliament of Botany Bay in the Oz Desert". The subject under consideration is the interior of the continent and discovered landscapes as well as the changing face of Oz. As exploration continued, Australia began to be seen, particularly by Victorians suffering in unhealth and expanding industrial cities, not as a glorified prison but as a holiday camp, where the sun shone every day and fresh food was abundant. *Prison or Paradise: Images of Australia Past* starts today at The British Library, Great Russell Street, London WC1 (01-636 1544) Monday to Saturday 10am-5pm, Sunday 2.30-6pm, free, until May 8.

★ **THE SLEEPING BEAUTY:** Peter Wright's sumptuous production for Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. The story of a prince who falls asleep for 100 years, until a princess awakens him. Directed by Peter Wright. Progs 1.00, 3.30, 6.00, 8.30, 11.15. Odeon High Street Kensington (01-520 6111). Progs 1.10, 1.35, 4.00, 6.40, 9.20, 12.00.

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TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear
and Peter Davalle

BBC1

- 6.00 **Coffee** AM. News headlines, weather, travel and sports bulletins.
- 6.30 **GI Lamb** in Grogan and Grunt (b/w). 6.55 **Weather**.
- 7.00 **Open University: Motion** - Newton's Laws. Ends at 7.30.
- 7.30 **Daytime on Two** Muriel Gray investigates Scotland's urban environment. Part five of a play about pigeon racing. 10.15 **Children** follow the route of the Glasgow Marathon by bus. 10.30 **Racial harassment** and how it can be countered. 11.00 **Parade**, a play for the young. 11.15 **Computer programs** 11.30 **A visit to a modern coal mine** and mining techniques of the past. 12.00 **How war affects the child** and the use of propaganda. 12.30 **Why almost every teenager wants to be famous**. 1.00 **Young men and women** apprentice jockeys in France. 1.30 **For the young**. 1.50 **English science fiction**. 2.00 **News** and weather followed by a series for four- and five-year olds.
- 2.15 **Weekend Outlook**. A preview of the *Open University* programmes to be shown over the weekend (r).
- 2.30 **International Darts**. England meet Wales in the Haywards British International Championship. The commentators are Sid Waddell and Tony Gubba.
- 3.00 **News** and weather followed by Olympic Match of the Day. Steve Rider introduces highlights from one of last night's top matches in the Olympic ice hockey tournament.
- 3.30 **News** and weather.
- 4.00 **Catchword**. Word games presented by Paul Cole. This afternoon Peter Fintley and Barbara Beckett try to stop Olive Spate from winning four times in a row.
- 4.30 **Food and Drink** includes the finalists of the *Super Cook* shopping in a Paris market on a budget of ten pounds; and the editor of the *Good Food Guide*, Drew Smith, highlights the disappearance of dairy ice cream (r).
- 5.00 **Olympic Grandstand** introduced by Desmond Lynam featuring the women's slalom and highlights of the ladies short programme in the figure skating event.

- 5.30 **Ask Margo**. Citizens' advice from Margo MacDonald. 5.30 **The Fast Forward Show** (r).
- 5.50 **Comers**. Young people's questions answered. 4.10 **SuperTed** (r). 4.15 **Jackanory**. Michael Madson with part five of *Nesbitt's Book of the Week*.
- 4.30 **Knock Knock** with Steve Coleman and Peter Simon.
- 4.55 **Newsround Extra**. Amy Colquhoun of Exeter and Neil Findlay of Glasgow report from the Philippines. 5.10 **Grange Hill**. Episode 18 (of 20). (Coastal). 5.35 **Neighbours** (r).
- 6.00 **St. O'Clock News** with Sue Lawley and Philip Houghton. Weather. 6.30 **London Plus**.
- 7.00 **Wogan**. Tonight's guests include Ronnie Barker, Barbara Cartland and Elaine Stritch. Plus, music from Etienne.
- 7.40 **Family Sketch**. Lee Deason's guests are Lionel Blair, Debbie Greenwood, Dany La Rue, Alvin Macdonald, Duncan Norville and Bertie Reading. (Coastal).
- 8.15 **Dynasty**. Dana Sculley over whether or not to tell Adam that she cannot have children; and Alexie offers her lower Sean a job. (Coastal).
- 8.00 **News O'Clock News** with Sue Lawley and Philip Houghton. Weather. 8.30 **London Plus**.
- 8.30 **Food and Drink**. Rocking and their team are on the trail of a drug dealer. (Coastal).
- 10.30 **Fast Forward**. A musical celebration of the 60th birthday of the rhythm and blues piano player and singer. Among those taking part are Jerry Lee Lewis and Ray Charles.
- 11.30 **Crash** (1967) starring Roy Lister, David Caruso and Michael Penn. A made-for-television tale of adolescent life in 1950s New York focusing on three young men who have just discovered the opposite sex and street gangs. Directed by Lee Philips.
- 12.00 **News**.

BBC2

- 6.00 **Coffee**.
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- 7.40 **Family Sketch**. Lee Deason's guests are Lionel Blair, Debbie Greenwood, Dany La Rue, Alvin Macdonald, Duncan Norville and Bertie Reading. (Coastal).
- 8.15 **Dynasty**. Dana Sculley over whether or not to tell Adam that she cannot have children; and Alexie offers her lower Sean a job. (Coastal).
- 8.00 **News O'Clock News** with Sue Lawley and Philip Houghton. Weather. 8.30 **London Plus**.
- 8.30 **Food and Drink**. Rocking and their team are on the trail of a drug dealer. (Coastal).
- 10.30 **Fast Forward**. A musical celebration of the 60th birthday of the rhythm and blues piano player and singer. Among those taking part are Jerry Lee Lewis and Ray Charles.
- 11.30 **Crash** (1967) starring Roy Lister, David Caruso and Michael Penn. A made-for-television tale of adolescent life in 1950s New York focusing on three young men who have just discovered the opposite sex and street gangs. Directed by Lee Philips.
- 12.00 **News**.

ITV/LONDON

- 6.00 **TV-am** includes Good Morning Britain at 7.00 and 8.00.
- 8.00 **Wesley** for the young presented by Timmy Mallett.
- 8.30 **Theme news**.
- 8.50 **Give Us a Clue**. Celebrity mime games presented by Michael Parkinson. This morning Lionel Blair and Lisa Gaddard are joined by Eve Farrow, Nino Fretto, Tim Flavin, Frank Hendry, Paul Jones and Wendy Wilson. 9.25 **News** headlines.
- 10.30 **The Time**. The place... Newsround Extra's a discussion on a topical subject. 11.10 **News**. Learning with puppets and guest, Ben Berton. 11.25 **Theme news** headlines.
- 11.30 **Thamescore Years and There?** This second programme of the series examines the work of careers, who they are and why they do it. 12.00 **Gas Street**. Music and chat show presented by Sue Castro.
- 12.30 **Show with Julia Somerville**. 12.50 **Theme news** headlines.
- 1.00 **What's My Line?** Odd occupations quiz presented by Patricia Kelly. 1.30 **Man in a Suitcase**. McCall is sent on assignment to East Berlin where he becomes involved in espionage and intrigue (r).
- 1.50 **Leaving**. Comedy series about a firm of Yorkshire family undertakers. Starring Thora Hird, Christopher Barry and Sherrie Hewson (r).
- 3.00 **Gems**. Drama serial about London's rag trade. This afternoon Rick has to make a desperate decision while a break-in at the Arches leads to bitterness between Bobby and Stephen. 3.25 **Theme news** headlines. 3.50 **Gas Street**. Music and chat show presented by Sue Castro.
- 4.00 **Revolution**. The first in a new series. 4.10 **Tower** (r). 4.30 **Heaven and the Madmen of the Universe** (r).

- 4.45 **Splash** includes Doc Martins fashion and a remote-control boat race.
- 5.15 **Claydonia**. Quiz game presented by Sue Robble.
- 5.45 **News** with Fiona Armstrong.
- 6.00 **The O'Clock Show** introduced by Michael Aspel.
- 7.00 **The Price is Right**. Game show.
- 8.00 **A Kind of Living**. Domestic comedy series starring Richard Griffiths and Frances D'Sa. Tour, Tonight Trevor and Carol are invited to dinner by their new neighbours. But first they have to find a reliable babysitter. (Oracle).
- 8.30 **Watching**. The second programme of the comedy love series starring Paul Brown, Emma Wiley and Lisa Tubb.
- 9.00 **The Professionals**. The CES agents have to deal with an East German official who is planning a bullion raid in order to finance his escape from the East. Starring Gordon Jackson, Martin Shaw and Lewis Collins (r). (Oracle).
- 10.00 **News** at Ten with Alastair Burnet and Sandy Gall. 10.30 **MTV News** and weather.
- 10.35 **The London Programme**. An investigation into the probable consequences of the abolition of lies. Presented by Trevor Phillips.
- 11.05 **Snodgrass**. Fourth round action in the MIM British Open, introduced by Dickie Davies from the advertising agency, Derby. The commentators are John Pulman, Rex Williams, Ray Edmonds, Mark Whitman and Jim Macdonald.
- 11.30 **Test of the Cricketers**. Second day's play of the game in Auckland between New Zealand and England.
- 1.00 **Night Heat**. The greatest detective Roger Delaney, Robert Townsend, Leonard Cohen and, performing live, Lyle Lovett.
- 4.00 **Baseball '88**.
- 5.00 **Morning News**. Ends at 6.00.

CHANNEL 4

- 8.30 **Schools**. Children learn how to cope with being sorry. 8.45 **A panorama of the Netherlands**, courtesy of the Dutch Netherlands Air Force and Dutch master painters. 8.55 **Panorama** in towns and campaigns to clean up. 10.21 **Important A-level chemistry experiments**. 10.43 **GCSE** pupils examine man's interaction with the environment. 1.05 **A story told through mime** and clowning. 11.22 **The variety of movement in the animal world**. 11.41 **Exciting uses of computers**.
- 12.00 **Business**. Financial and business news service.
- 12.30 **Abolitionists**. Part eight of the 13-programme children's science and technology series examines food, including an outline of the development of agriculture from the Stone Age to the 20th Century (r).
- 1.00 **On Camera**. Open College trainers' magazine series presented by Anthony and Hilary Whitely and Richard Finn.
- 2.00 **The Parliament Programme** presented by Glyn Mathias. Reporters Nicholas Woolley and Jackie Ashley review the year's debate in both Houses and look forward to those scheduled for today.
- 2.30 **Equinox**. Britain Can Make It? A documentary examining the history of the British Isles - the best in the world during the 1950s and 1960s but by the early 1970s overtaken by foreign competitors when the "Made in Britain" tag became a label of derision (r). (Oracle).
- 3.30 **Time to Remember** (b/w). Part 32 of the history of Britain from Victorian times to 1945 reaches the year 1945 when Britain was virtually standing alone; Hitler launched his major offensive on Russia; and Japan struck Pearl Harbor. The narrator is Anthony Quayle (r).
- 4.00 **News** on 4. In *Editorial* of the review of the month's news. Mavis Nicholson is joined by journalists James Naughtie and Edward Pearce who left and right views of the events.
- 4.30 **Fifteen-to-One**. Fast-moving general knowledge quiz presented by William G Stewart.

- 5.00 **Master Ed** (b/w). Vintage American early series about a man with a talking horse.
- 5.30 **The Chert Show**. Part one.
- 6.00 **Meet and Tidy**. Episode three of the children's television series and Nick and Tena are in the wild west dealing with bar-room bullies and a half naked sheriff. Starring Skyler Cole and Jill Whitlow.
- 6.30 **The Chert Show**. Part two.
- 7.00 **Book Choices**. Henri Troyat's *Peter the Great* is reviewed by Norman Stone, Professor of Modern History at Oxford University.
- 8.00 **What the Papers Say** with Julia Davidson of *The Scotsman*.
- 8.15 **Dispatches**. A report from the United States on how the authorities over there are dealing with the problem of the long-term urban unemployed. In New York there is a controversy about the use of workfare which requires people to work in return for their welfare, while others in Boston and Chicago are examined.
- 9.00 **The Cosby Show**. American domestic comedy series. (Oracle).
- 9.30 **How Does Your Garden Grow?** The first of a new series of eight programmes featuring gardens in Ulster. This evening Philip Wood and David Wilson visit Jack Murray's garden with its views of sea and mountain from Dundrum Bay to Slieve Donard in County Down. (Oracle).
- 10.00 **Dispatches**. Editorial on the proposed to propose to, is accepted, but when his mother arrives for the wedding she dislikes Carla on sight and forces Eddie to leave. Starring Tied Danson, Kirstie Alley and Rhea Perlman. (Oracle).
- 10.30 **Friday Night Live**. Music and comedy series presented by Ben Aronson. Tonight's guests are Harry Enfield, Hunter & Docherty and the Sea Monsters.
- 11.45 **After Dark** presented by Stuart Pearce. A comedy sketch tonight on the subject of modern marriage. Among those taking part are Mary Whitehouse and Shere Hite.

VARIATIONS

- BBC1** WALKER: 8.30pm-8.50pm News followed by *Neighbours* 10.30pm. 10.45 *Fast Forward* and *Crash* 11.00pm. *Crash* Times: 1.15pm-1.30pm News and weather. 1.30pm-1.45pm *Crash* Times: 1.45pm-1.55pm *Crash* Times: 1.55pm-2.00pm *Crash* Times: 2.00pm-2.10pm *Crash* Times: 2.10pm-2.20pm *Crash* Times: 2.20pm-2.30pm *Crash* Times: 2.30pm-2.40pm *Crash* Times: 2.40pm-2.50pm *Crash* Times: 2.50pm-3.00pm *Crash* Times: 3.00pm-3.10pm *Crash* Times: 3.10pm-3.20pm *Crash* Times: 3.20pm-3.30pm *Crash* Times: 3.30pm-3.40pm *Crash* Times: 3.40pm-3.50pm *Crash* Times: 3.50pm-4.00pm *Crash* Times: 4.00pm-4.10pm *Crash* Times: 4.10pm-4.20pm *Crash* Times: 4.20pm-4.30pm *Crash* Times: 4.30pm-4.40pm *Crash* Times: 4.40pm-4.50pm *Crash* Times: 4.50pm-5.00pm *Crash* Times: 5.00pm-5.10pm *Crash* Times: 5.10pm-5.20pm *Crash* Times: 5.20pm-5.30pm *Crash* Times: 5.30pm-5.40pm *Crash* Times: 5.40pm-5.50pm *Crash* Times: 5.50pm-6.00pm *Crash* Times: 6.00pm-6.10pm *Crash* Times: 6.10pm-6.20pm *Crash* Times: 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Executive Editor
David Brewerton

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1433.9 (+16.3)
FT-SE 100
1782.4 (+22.3)
Bargains
24908 (22868)
USM (Datastream)
143.59 (+0.25)

THE POUND

US dollar
1.7660 (+0.0025)
W German mark
2.9943 (+0.0069)
Trade-weighted
74.6 (same)

BT profits
rise 12%
to £1.7bn

BT has raised its pretax profits by 12 per cent to £1.7 billion in the first nine months of its financial year despite holding prices steady for 15 months.

The third quarter, covering the last three months of 1987, saw profits rise to £640 million, 13.4 per cent higher on the same period a year before. Turnover grew by almost 9 per cent to £2.6 billion in the quarter.

Mr Ian Vallance, BT's chairman, said this was particularly satisfactory when BT had held the prices of its main inland services steady for more than 15 months.

BT shares rose 3p to 245p on the news.

Temps, page 24



Kenneth Fleet
Is there a touch of spring in the air? Kenneth Fleet looks for signs of a renaissance on the stock market in his column tomorrow.

Bryant soars

Bryant Group, the house-building and construction company, which last year fought off a bid from a group of Chinese investors, reported a 92 per cent leap in pretax profits for the six months ending November 30 to £22.5 million. The interim rises by 60 per cent to 1.2p.

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SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York	2061.17 (+21.22)
Dow Jones	2061.17 (+21.22)
Tel Aviv	1500.00 (+132.01)
Hong Kong	2365.88 (+18.88)
Amst. 100	125.5 (+3.2)
Sydney 100	1247.7 (+18.2)
Frankfurt	1404.9 (+25.7)
Brussels	4621.8 (+34.3)
Paris CAC	305.3 (+3.5)
Zurich S&P	452.4 (+4.2)
London	
FT-30 Share	1433.9 (+16.3)
FT-100	1782.4 (+22.3)
FT Gold Mines	248.9 (+5.9)
FT Fixed Interest	95.44 (+0.25)
FT Govt Stock	90.01 (+0.25)
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MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:	
Sun Alliance	894p (+23p)
Henderson	487p (+15p)
Jackson	487p (+22p)
Calor Group	852p (+19p)
Int'l Thomson	535p (+20p)
Worlepar	238p (+15p)
Pickering	448p (+18p)
RMC Group	880p (+20p)
General Accident	340p (+15p)
Reubens	112p (+15p)
Isotron	127p (+14p)
Bass	809p (+18p)
Coleman	558p (+12p)
Slainight	137p (+12p)
Wiggins	186p (+11p)

FALLS:	
Bruning	220p (-10p)
Mervale Moore	335p (-10p)
Yorkville	200p (-10p)
Closing prices	

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base	9%
3-month interbank	9.5%
3-month Treasury Bills	5.51-5.59%
30-year bonds	10.5%-10.51%

CURRENCIES

London	New York
£/\$	1.7660
£/DM	2.9943
£/Sfr	1.3659
£/FF	11.192
£/Yen	227.11
£/Index	74.6
ECU	10.59575
S&P	10.76885

GOLD

London Fixing	\$432.10
Gold \$430.50-431.00 (\$243.75-244.25)	
New York	\$430.10-430.60

NORTH SEA OIL

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M&S begins
drive into US

\$770m Brooks Bros deal
is American passport

By Joe Joseph

Marks and Spencer has signed an agreement in principle to pay \$770 million (£436 million) cash for its first US acquisition, Brooks Brothers, one of America's best-known retailers.

The move is a big departure for Marks and Spencer, which has traditionally relied on its own outlets and St Michael trademark to build its reputation as one of Britain's leading high street store groups.

Marks and Spencer has chosen Brooks Brothers as its long-sought passport into US retailing. But initial City reaction was critical of the lack of detail given about the deal. Analysts said the purchase looked expensive, and reserved judgement until further information is disclosed. Marks and Spencer shares fell 5p to 180p on the news.

The American men's outfitter is renowned for its button-down shirts and penny loafer shoes which have become the signature of well-heeled US "preppies".

The purchase gives the British company 47 shop windows across the United States — including two huge emporia for New York's businessmen, the biggest in midtown Manhattan, the other near the bustle of Wall Street — as well as a stake in a dozen joint ventures in Japan.

The deal also caps a ten-month search by Marks for a former US foothold, underlining its shaky success in North America so far.

Marks is buying Brooks Brothers from Campan Corporation. The purchase is contingent on the Canadian property group completing its near \$6 billion acquisition of Federated Department Stores, which owns Bloomingdale's and a string of other swanky department stores across America.

A spokesman for Marks said: "If completed, the acquisition of Brooks Brothers would represent a substantial opportunity for Marks and Spencer to enter the US retail clothing market through a major long-established business with a high reputation for quality."

"We intend to maintain this reputation and believe that we can develop the business by applying our retailing expertise, particularly in sourcing and store operations, and by the introduction of our efficient operating procedures."

It is still uncertain what Marks will make of its new acquisition, which represents a step into a completely different market — upmarket and specialist, compared with Marks' trusted mass market background.

Some analysts feel it will not offer Marks the opportunity to exploit its expertise, nor will it provide experience that can be easily funneled back into its British operations. They add that Marks' earnings are likely to be diluted rather than increased by the acquisition.

One the other hand, Brooks Brothers is still a relatively unexploited and respected name that could provide Marks with an entry into many new markets.

"They're buying the best and paying top price for it," said one analyst. "It's the ultimate menswear chain. There is still a little room for it to grow in the US. Also Brooks Brothers has already looked to expanding in London and may now look more closely at opening up in other European centres."

Mr William Cullum, a retail analyst at BZW, the broker, said the preliminary announcement was "too dark for judgement", and Mr Paul Deacon of Citicorp Securities said Marks' move seemed to have made an expensive purchase.

M&S last night said that financial information it had been given was "confidential", and that the City would have to make its own guesses about the Brooks business. More details will only be given later.

Marks and Spencer still has a team in the US evaluating other purchases.

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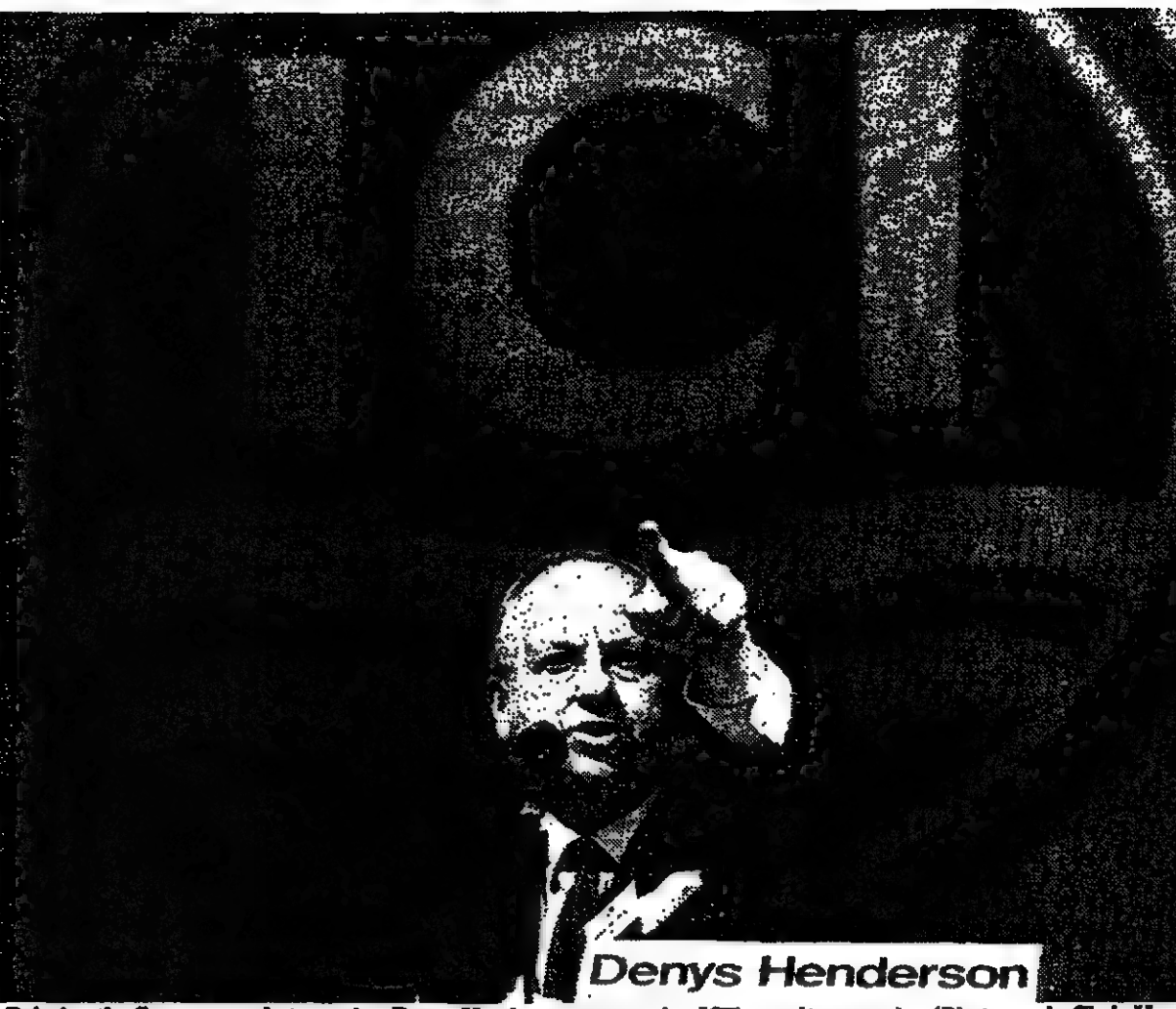
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Chairman challenges market rating



Denys Henderson

Pointing the finger at market sceptics: Denys Henderson announcing ICI's results yesterday (Photograph: Chris Harris)

Bullish ICI cheers with £1.3bn

By Alexandra Jackson

Satisfactory 1987 results from Imperial Chemical Industries and a bullish statement about this year and beyond, cheered the stock market yesterday. The mood of optimism pervaded the whole City with trading volumes reminiscent of days before the market crashed.

ICI's profits were in line with expectations, at £1.3 billion, compared with £1 billion in 1986. Sales advanced from £10.1 billion to £11.1 billion.

Earnings per share rose 23 per cent to 113.6p. A final dividend of 25p was declared, making 41p for the year. The shares gained 19p to 1,082p.

ICI is not expecting a drop in profits in 1988 or 1989, according to its finance director, Mr Alan Clements. "We recast our budgets after the stock market crash, using more modest growth rates and, leaving aside the possibility of a repeat of last October, we still came out with numbers suggesting continued growth in 1988 and 1989," he said.

ICI shares have underperformed the market by 20 per cent in the last year on fears that profits would fall in 1988 and 1989. However, the group has remained adamant that internal restructuring and a series of strategic acquisitions have changed the nature of the business.

Mr Denys Henderson, ICI chairman, spoke out against the stock market rating of the shares. "Our share price is unsatisfactory," he said. "Our results have shown a pretty phenomenal improvement since 1983. We have enjoyed strong profits and earning growth, have a 10-times interest cover, low gearing and a high yield. But our shares sell at a 15 to 20 per cent discount to the market."

Mr Henderson disputed the view that ICI is particularly susceptible to currency movements. "This has been overdone," he said.

"Taking the two important currencies together, the dollar and the Deutschmark, the net effect on our 1987 profits was between £15 and £20 million."

"Although the pound has already strengthened by 10 per cent against the 1987 average, we still think it is unlikely that 1988 profits will be depressed by more than £30 million," he continued.

Of the 11 per cent growth in ICI sales, 6 percentage points was achieved from organic growth and the rest through acquisition.

Comment, page 25

SE call to
end capital
gains tax

By Rodney Lord
Economics Editor

The Stock Exchange wants Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, to abolish both capital gains tax and stamp duty in next month's Budget. It also wants a boost to wider share ownership through a more generous tax relief for personal equity plans.

In its annual Budget submission to the Chancellor, the exchange says that capital gains tax distorts the market by discouraging dealing. Ideally the tax should be abolished.

If abolition is not possible it should be reformed to make it chargeable on a sliding scale depending on how long the asset has been held. Gains made within six months would attract the highest rate, reducing to nothing over three years.

The exchange wants stamp duty on securities transactions abolished to maintain London's competitiveness as a financial centre. Even at the reduced rate of 0.5 per cent the duty is a high proportion of dealing costs and should be abolished ahead of the European free market envisaged from 1992.

With stamp duty should go the 1.5 per cent duty on American depositary receipts which inhibits free movement of capital between markets.

The ideal boost to wider share ownership would be tax neutrality between all forms of saving.

Mr Pybus, the AAH chairman — also the senior partner at Herbert Oppenheimer, the company's solicitor — believes that because UniChem has announced plans for a float, its advertisements should have DTI approval, and comply with listing rules. UniChem says it has DTI clearance; the DTI says nothing.

Mr Pybus has complained to the OFT that UniChem's scheme is a marketing device that is practicable only because of UniChem's special status as an industrial society, and that it should have been registered under the 1976 Restrictive Practices Act.

"There is nothing in the AAH announcement which will change our plans," says Mr Dodd. "We have taken advice and received full clearance on every matter raised by AAH. This is just a desperate sand-throwing exercise designed to confuse pharmacists."

Conran chooses Julien to
succeed him at Storehouse

By Cliff Feltham

Sir Terence Conran, the chairman of the Storehouse group, has ended his long search for a new chief executive and appointed Mr Michael Julien, aged 49, who has been finance director at Guinness for 12 months. Mr Julien said: "This is the pinnacle for me. It is the job I have always wanted."

Sir Terence said: "We wanted someone who was more than just a retailer. We needed someone able to develop this business into the 1990s, and who is used to running an international group. No conventional retailer fits the bill as well as he does."

The appointment, with a salary well in excess of £100,000 a year, completes a boardroom reshuffle at Storehouse, whose performance has attracted criticism in the City. Mr Julien will take over as chairman when Sir Terence, aged 57, retires in three years.

The group, which takes in Habitat, Mothercare, Richards, and BHS, has successfully brushed off two takeover attempts, from Mr Tony Clegg's Mountleigh property group, and the trash bid from the engineering group Benlox.

but is still considered vulnerable.

City experts had been expecting an experienced retailer to run the group after Mr Dennis Cassidy, aged 55, deputy chairman and head of BHS, the largest part of the group, resigned last summer, when Sir Terence announced he was seeking an outsider to take over as chief executive.

Mr Julien became the first finance director of a leading bank when he joined the Midland in 1983 to sort out the financial problems caused by the disastrous acquisition of the US Crocker National Bank.

He left in 1986 to join the board of Eurotunnel before joining Guinness in March last year. He was an external director of Littlewoods, the stores group, for five years. He said: "I am no stranger to retailing. Midland had 3,500 branches and the Littlewoods position was very valuable. I am used to working in large companies and Storehouse is now a very big group which needs to be focused not just on the UK but overseas."

Mr Julien backed Sir Terence's plans not to break up Storehouse. "The strategy looks sensible and sound, but it would be premature to talk about my plans at this stage."

He denied he had been brought in as a troubleshooter to fend off another likely bid for Storehouse. "No company can say it is free from a bid, but there has been a change in sentiment, and institutions now appear to be backing the management of a company when it has a clear future. It is up to us to make the business successful."

Mr Julien said his parting with Guinness had been amicable. "There was no bust-up. I am leaving the company in good financial shape."

Midland Bank as general manager-finance, and was closely involved with the restructuring caused by the sale of the Crocker Bank.

In 1986 Mr Fitzpatrick moved to the BBC as finance director. He joins Guinness as it emerges from the debacle of the Distillers takeover battle. However, during the past year it has sold its retail division and rationalized the Distillers distributorship arrangements under Mr Anthony Tennant, the new group chief executive.

He said: "Mr Fitzpatrick has earned a high reputation with major public companies and latterly the BBC."

What a rumpus UniChem's stock market flotation plan has caused among the wholesale chemists. One of its two big competitors, Macarthy, has reacted with a £71 million bid for the business, and now the other, AAH Holdings, is seeking to have the scheme banned by law.

AAH — whose Vestric and other pharmaceutical distribution activities have carved out a 28 per cent slice of the £2.6 billion chemist shop supply business, leaving aside Boots — says that UniChem's advertising material breaches the 1958 Fraud Act, and that the scheme itself may contravene the 1980 Competition Act.

On the first issue it has made a formal complaint to the Department of Trade and Industry, and on the second it has alerted Sir Gordon Borrie, director-general of the Office of Fair Trading. Mr Peter Dodd, the UniChem chief executive, promptly went on television to describe the move as "a load of cobblers".

UniChem's plan, launched early in January, envisaged a likely flotation in 1990. It is an industrial co-operative, owned by its 5,000 or so customers. During the intervening period it would sell shares to its customers, depending on how much they spend, at prices expected to multiply many times over on the start of stock market dealings.

It has since bombarded Britain's 9,500 retail chemists with a series of brochures and promotional literature designed to entice new business. The pharmaceutical wholesale industry has three main players: AAH with 28 per cent, UniChem with 22 per cent, and Macarthy with 10 per cent. Two others, Sangers and Barclay, have been squeezed out by a ferocious price war in recent years.

Guinness Peat demerger unveiled

By Richard Thomson
Banking Correspondent

GPG, the holding company for Guinness Mahon and a range of other financial subsidiaries, yesterday unveiled a scheme for demerging its activities into three separate quoted companies.

The scheme marks the end of Guinness Peat's chequered eight-year history as a single group. Mr Geoffrey Bell, the deputy chairman, said that the three main parts of the group contributed little to each other, but required a high central group cost structure.

Guinness Mahon would also be free to re-emerge as a strong niche merchant banking operation, he added.

The scheme was proposed by Equicorp, the New Zealand investment company, which last year took control of GPG after buying nearly 60 per cent of the company. The three independent companies created by the demerger include Guinness Mahon, the merchant bank; Fenchurch

Insurance Holdings, the insurance broker; and the overseas operations of GPG.

GPG shareholders will be issued with new shares in each of the three vehicles pro rata with their current shareholding in the GPG group. Since each of the companies will be separately listed on the stock market, the shares of all three will be tradeable.

Mr Bell said that the companies were worth more separately than as part of a single group.

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TEMPUS

Sun is breaking through for Royal

After being battered by two hurricanes in 1987 - first the weather, then the October financial storm, which tore holes in the profit-and-loss account and took year-end net worth down from 518p to 422p a share - the sun is beginning to peep through again on Royal Insurance.

So yesterday's initial share price reaction, which saw Royal up from 401p to 414p after 1987 pretax profits down from £304.8 million to £274 million, is not as perverse as it seems.

The current year has started on a relatively encouraging footing (weather permitting), and despite Royal's nervous movements in 1987 the year's total dividend was raised by 24.2 per cent, with a final payment of 11p, and topped market expectations.

There are, however, some pitfalls to watch out for, which explains the later profit-taking which pulled Royal shares back to 406p.

These are that its exposure to the North American commercial market, where problems still loom, make it less attractive relative to other composites which are not so openly exposed to that market.

And while Royal's 1987 rate of dividend increase was certainly welcomed, the pace of dividend growth could well slow in 1988 and 1989.

Others, the Sun Alliances, General Accidents and Guardian Royal Exchanges of this world, look to have stronger dividend potential, and thus are likely to be higher on investors' buying lists.

The insurance industry would like to believe that 1987-type hurricanes, be they weather or financial, are rare

events. Royal has now taken reinsurance to spread its risk, and is likely to raise premiums to take account of the changing weather patterns. It is also witnessing a generally stronger market in various lines, but there is tacit admission of worries about the United States.

The mature state of the cycle in the US insurance world may this time mean a soft landing, rather than the crash of the early 1980s, but even so North American exposure remains a source of anxiety.

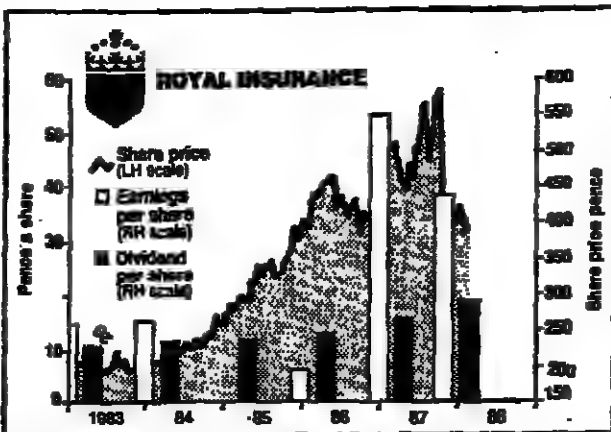
In Britain, Royal is right to expect a better performance in 1988 after last year's profit contribution tumbled from £93.6 million to £3.3 million, essentially because of the final quarter's weather-financial related problems. Premium income in Britain has topped the £1 billion mark for the first time, providing a solid platform for further advances this year.

Royal International and Royal Canada both enjoyed a better year, while the financial services leg in Royal Life Holdings continues to make strides.

This year Royal should see the balance sheet in better shape and thus repair the damage to net worth.

It should also be capable of lifting pretax profits to the £410 million mark, and should the annual dividend rise to the 22.5p-a-share level, then the prospective yield will be an attractive 7.9 per cent.

However, because of the caveats about North American exposure and the dividend growth potential, Royal shares are more likely in the short term to follow the sector rather than lead it.



British Telecom

Growth in demand for telephone calls is the secret of British Telecom's future. That may seem obvious. But many investment sentiment too often depends on other factors: the state and terms of competition with Mercury, the pricing formula and relations with Ofel, adverse publicity on commercially insignificant things such as coin boxes or City aversion to extra BT staff.

The third-quarter figures to December show confident growth all the way down the profit-and-loss account, though at a rate that will be hard to sustain in the final quarter, let alone 1988-89. Growth was consistently a bit better than the nine-month figures, with sales up 8.6 per cent (7.8 per cent for nine months), operating profit up 10.7 per cent (10.2 per cent), pretax up 13.4 per cent (12 per cent) and earnings per share up 16 per cent (14.1 per cent) with help from redemption of preference shares. It also shows a healthy progress towards the bottom line.

There was a lot of new business in the City as BT caught up with Big Bang just before the crash. But any

slackening in the final three months is unlikely to stop BT topping £2.3 billion comfortably for the year to March. There was a strike in the same period last spring.

BT shares edged up 3p to 245p, mainly in line with the market. If the 12 per cent rise in interim dividend is maintained, that would probably leave them yielding 5.5 per cent and selling at barely above 10 times earnings.

That is a below-average rating for a utility with little financial gearing, but a healthy gearing between steady volume growth and earnings per share. The City is worried about costs, which have also been accelerating to almost 8 per cent growth in the latest quarter. Staff levels are still rising, now up 1,700 in core activities on the nine months.

With inflation at present levels, there can be little relief in prices. And, for once, the coincidence of heavy tax payments and peak investment next year will produce a negative cash flow, reversing the fall in interest costs.

That simply makes demand growth even more crucial. Business traffic is the engine of growth, with exchange lines up by 7 per cent and private

circuit revenue by 13 per cent over 12 months. Small business was more important than the City.

BT expects volume growth to fall by 1 or 2 per cent next year. That should still leave profits growing and the shares good value. Any serious relapse in growth of the economy would be a different story.

Bryant Group

Shareholders who resisted the temptation to hand over their shares in Bryant Group last year, must be pleased to see how astute their decision to support the West Midlands-based housebuilder has proved.

Not only have the shares outperformed the market by 76 per cent in the last 12 months, but the company has also been spurred by the silent presence of English China Clays' 29.9 per cent holding and is committed to producing another set of excellent results.

Apparently, demand has not been affected by the hiccup of October's market crash. Site visits in January, usually a quiet month, were above the level normal for the summer peak. In the last eight weeks, the group has sold 500 homes, half the 1,050 total in the first six months of the year.

Bryant expects to sell 2,200 homes for the full year, 10 per cent ahead of last year. Half-year on half-year, however, there was no volume gain. Instead, the group relied on rising prices.

In the first half the average selling price moved up to £75,000 from £56,000 last year. Prices averaged £61,000 for the whole of last year and an advance of between 10

and 15 per cent is pencilled in for the full year.

Part of this progress is due to an improving product mix, but Bryant is already well represented in the middle to upper market.

The land bank was maintained at 8,000 units but this cost an extra 15 per cent. Bryant claims it is not paying top prices for land and believes the length of the land bank gives it the luxury to pick and choose developments if market conditions change.

The property division has come of age with the completion of the prestigious Pavilions retail developments in Birmingham. Completing the project on time and within budget has allowed Bryant to take £4 million of profit into both the half-time and full-year results.

The construction division has a record order book of £50 million. Together construction and property increased their profits contribution from a quarter to a third.

Bryant's half-time results were more than 30 per cent higher than market expectations but the price scarcely moved. English China Clays is remaining very quiet about its intentions, but it seems certain it will not bid at what could prove to be the peak of the housebuilding boom.

Meanwhile if Bryant continues to increase its dividend with the enthusiasm suggested by the interim rise of 60 per cent, ECC will be going some way to improve the cashflow position on its investment.

Bryant should make £47 million this year, leaving the shares on a p.e. of nine times. Most of the short-term potential is already in the price.

STOCK MARKET

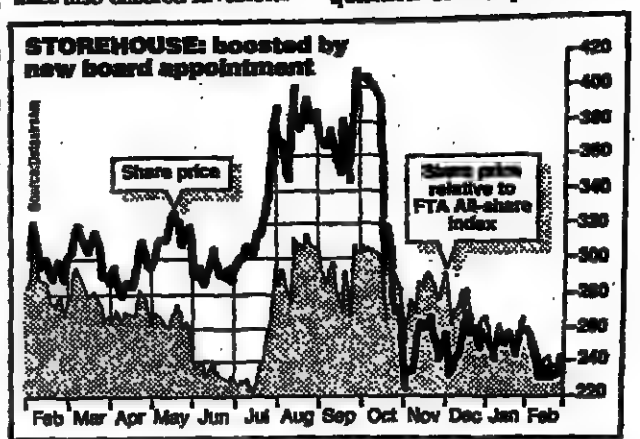
Indexes gain as turnover nears post-crash high

It was just like old times on the London stock market yesterday with dealers making the most out of a sudden surge in business which brought some of the best levels of turnover since the crash.

Full-year figures from ICI, producing pretax profits of £1.3 billion, were in line with expectations. But the share price ended the day 19p higher at £10.82 as 2.6 million shares were traded. Dealers said that Mr Denys Henderson, the chairman, put up a polished performance at a meeting with analysts after the figures. Better-than-expected profit news from British Telecom - up 4p at 246p - and Royal Insurance also cheered investors.

Storehouse, the British Home Stores and Habitat Mithras group, rose by 8p to 242p, excited by the news that Mr Michael Julien has been appointed chief executive and chairman-designate. He is currently the finance director of Guinness and has agreed to remain a non-executive director at the drinks company until a successor is found. The market was clearly pleased with the choice of the man who will replace Sir Terence Conran as chairman when he retires in three years' time.

Blue Arrow, the world's highest employment agency following last year's acquisition of Manpower, rose



By the close of business, a total of \$10.1 million shares had been traded on the Stock Exchange. Share prices closed at their best levels of the day, helped by a firm start to trading on Wall Street where investors took heart from the latest economic news.

The FT-SE 100 grew in confidence throughout the day, closing 22.3 points higher at 1,782.4, while the FT index of 30 shares put on 16.9 points at 1,433.9.

The pick-up in turnover was accompanied by the appearance of several large lines of stock. Shell finished 3p higher at £10.56 as a line of 2.5 million shares worth through at £10.45. Phillips & Drew, the broker, was thought to have completed the business. One

by 5p to 101p - finally breaching the psychologically-important 100p level. Dealers now hope that, if it can consolidate its position, the shares might start to make up some of the lost ground which saw them tumble from 170p to a low of 76p following the October crash.

KLP, the advertising and marketing group, firmed by 2p to 282p. This week, Mr Colin Lloyd, the chairman, met a number of institutions and is said to have made a favourable impression.

WPP Group, the fast-growing advertising agency, headed by Mr Martin Sorrell, which last year bought J Walter Thompson in the US, stood out with an 8p rise to 499p. Industry sources estimate that its British billings are now more than Satchi & Satchi's, the world's biggest advertising agency. Analysts are expecting WPP to make pretax profits of £12.6 million in the current year.

TIP Europe, the container rental group, made a confident debut despite scrapping its plans for a full listing last year in the wake of the crash. Phillips & Drew, the broker, placed 12 million shares in London at 125p a share, valuing the company at £3.1 million.

Investors were quite prepared to chase the price higher, hoping to pick up more stock. It eventually closed slightly below its best, at 143p - a premium of 18p.

But the stage took a drubbing in the day's other new issue - London Furnishing, the

international trade finance house and the biggest listing ever undertaken on the Unlisted Securities Market. Schroders, the merchant bank, offered 65.8 million shares at 160p, valuing the company at £160 million.

The issue was only 1.3 times subscribed - which was reflected in first-time dealings, where the price touched 163p briefly before ending the day at 156p - a discount of 4p.

Amara, the mechanical engineer, jumped by 6p to 96p after learning that Australian National Industries had bought an extra 5.65 million shares, lifting its holding to 20.29 million shares, or 21.87 per cent of the issued capital.

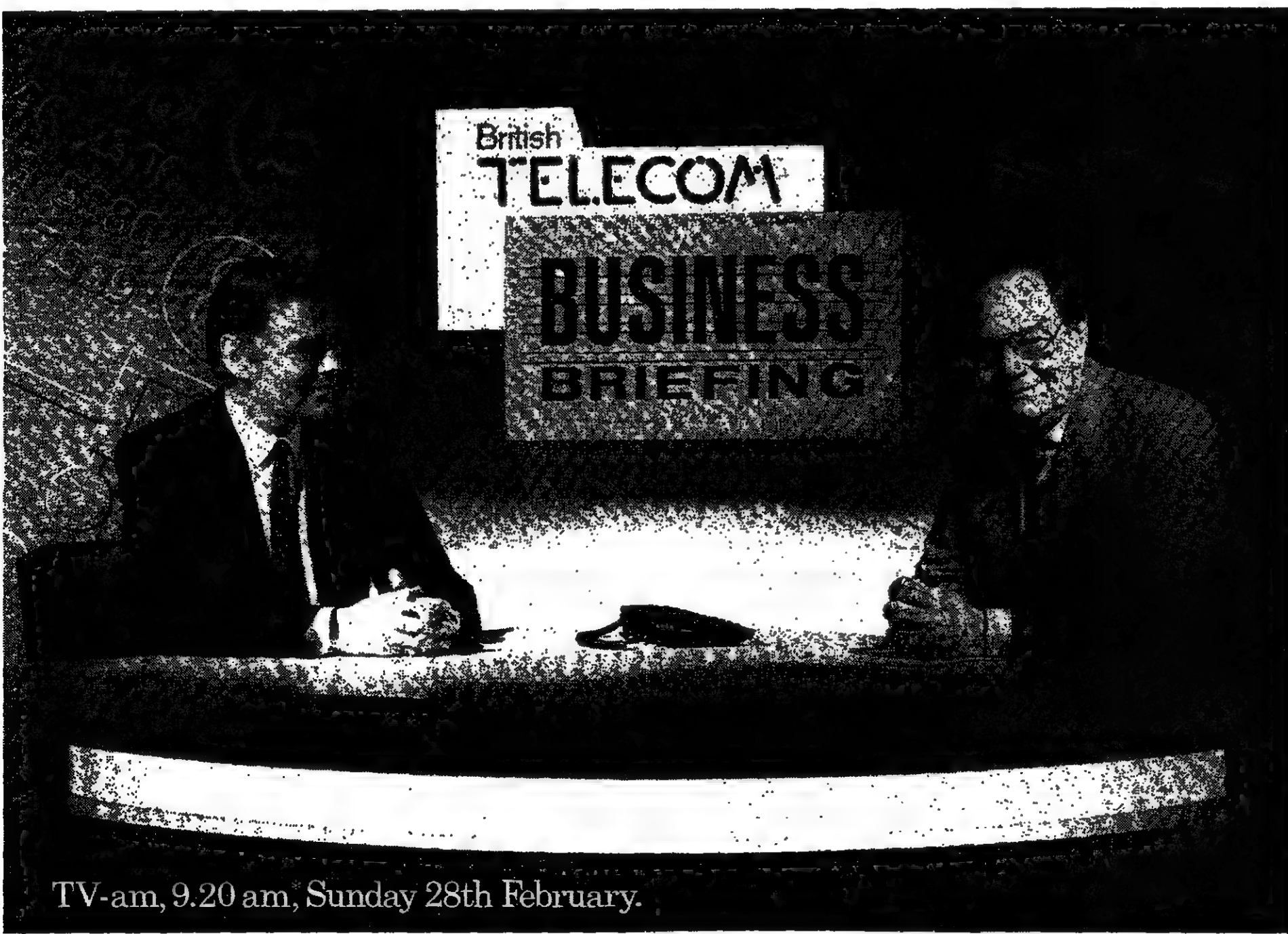
ANI has also bought a stake in William Cook, the founding company, pushing the price up by 15p to 112p.

Michael Clark

ALPHA STOCKS

Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000
Abbey 2,410	Castle 888	Land Sea 305	Rowntree 588
Ad-Jones 2,142	CU 2,718	Laporte 752	Royal Bank 280
Amstrad 4,705	Corn Gold 658	LBB 2,605	Sainsbury 2,283
ASDA 2,111	Cookson 385	Lloyds 3,404	Satchi 1,188
AB Foods 540	Courtauld 2,143	Lothian 1,444	Sainsbury 3,725
Argyll 2,538	Dalrymple 742	Luce 487	Sant N M 2,945
BAA 903	Dea 2,187	Magnet 449	Seab 4,384
BET 881	Dixons 628	M&S 7,287	Sedgwick 1,578
BTR 2,832	EOG 1,019	Manxair 310	Shel 5,232
BAT 3,683	Essex 1,231	MCC 752	Smith & N 78
Berkeley 2,192	Farrar 11,728	Metal Box 489	STC 1,000
Bee 942	Feysa 3,884	Mitdon 784	Stain Chart 808
Beecham 1,830	Gen Aus 615	NorthWest 2,935	Stoke New 3,741
Beezer 1,082	GED 8,817	Nov 7,038	Stoke New 788
BICC 69	Glen 1,825	Nth Food 591	T & M 1,393
Blue Arrow 5,988	Glen 440	PAO 1,043	Tarmac 3,441
Blue Circle 235	Granada 1,082	Pearson 42	Tate & Lyle 78
BOC 2,844	Grand Met 1,082	Pearson 42	TBS 1,951
Boots 1,488	GUS 'A' 111	Philips 5,885	Tesco 3,393
BPS 1,383	GUS 'B' 272	Pirelli 3,613	Thorn EMI 1,078
Br Aero 1,442	GKN 750	Procter & Gamble 1,859	Tiger 1,788
Br Airways 2,600	Guthrie 3,995	Rand 2,148	TIF 3,271
Br Comm 434	Hamm 'A' 110	R&I 814	Unilever 3,627
Br Gas 11,252	Hawker 10,254	Rank 589	Unilever 12,325
Br Telecom 7,032	Hawley 731	Reed 554	Unilever 12,325
Britoil 483	Hilldown 382	Reed 554	Unilever 12,325
Bristol 483	ICI 750	RMC 750	Unilever 12,325
Burnham 680	ICI 750	RMC 750	Unilever 12,325
Burton 2,871	Jaguar 2,800	RITZ 1,188	Unilever 12,325
CAF 1,510	Leano 741	Royce 1,028	Unilever 12,325
Canary 2,725	Ladbroke 1,114	Royce 1,028	Unilever 12,325

CLIFF MICHELMORE INVESTIGATES BRITISH TELECOM'S LATEST FIGURES.



TV-am, 9.20 am, Sunday 28th February.

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Even if you don't usually turn on your television on a Sunday morning, you may find it well worth while this weekend.

Nine months financial highlights

■ Turnover increased by 7.8% to £7,556m.

■ Pre-tax profit at £1,694 - an increase of 12.0%.

■ Earnings per share up 14.1% to 17.4 pence.

■ Capital expenditure over £1,600 million, equivalent to £6 million a day.

British TELECOM
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Third quarter and nine months results to 31 December 1987

	Third quarter 3 months ended 31 Dec (unaudited) 1987	Third quarter 3 months ended 31 Dec (unaudited) 1986	Cumulative 9 months ended 31 Dec (unaudited) 1987	Cumulative 9 months ended 31 Dec (unaudited) 1986
Turnover	2,602	2,395	7,556	7,009
Operating profit	640	578	1,895	1,720
Profit before taxation	574	506	1,694	1,512
Profit attributable to ordinary shareholders	355	306	1,046	916
Earnings per ordinary share	5.9p	5.1p	17.4p	15.3p

*Approximate time. If you would like a copy of the interim results leaflet or if you have any queries as an investor, please call us on this LinkLine number, which enables you to telephone from anywhere in the UK for the price of a local call: LinkLine 0945 090505. For daily information on the British Telecom share price, dial Shareline on: London 01-246 8022 Birmingham 021-246 8056 Edinburgh 031-447 0333 Glasgow 041-246 8080 Liverpool 051-488 0787 Manchester 061-246 8060 Belfast (0222) 8080 Bristol (0272) 216444 Cardiff (0222) 8037 Leeds (0532) 8038. British Telecommunications plc, 81 Newgate Street, London EC1A 7AJ. Telephone 01-356 5000.

Profits plunge by £30m at battered Royal Insurance

By Colin Campbell

Royal Insurance, battered by a number of financial body blows in the year ended December, yesterday disclosed that, because of the host of adverse influences, its 1987 pretax profit fell from £304.8 million to £274 million.

Adverse weather worldwide cost the insurance group £231 million. Exchange rate movements cost £22.6 million, and the overall impact of the worldwide October market crash was a £295 million dent to the balance sheet.

Mr Alan Horsford, chief executive, said the October hurricane in Britain alone cost an estimated £105 million.

However, because there was a more encouraging outlook for 1988, and because 1987 could be regarded as an exceptional year, Royal was able to raise its final dividend from 10.25p to 11p a share, making a year's total of 19.25p (15.5p).

Royal shares rose from 401p to an initial 414p on results, though settled back to 406p by the close.

Royal is to consider raising certain premiums later this year to cater for the changed weather patterns that are now evident in Britain, possibly by about 11 per cent.

It has now bought re-insurance protection for its British business.

Discounting the impact of the weather on Royal's performance, there was a fur-

ther significant improvement in the profitability of the company during 1987, Mr Horsford said.

In the United States, there was a record pretax profit, though some downturn in business is expected in the current financial year.

In Britain - weather apart - the trend remained one of improvement against a background of generally firm market conditions.

Record pretax results were achieved by Royal Canada and Royal Reinsurance, while Royal International had its best result for three years.

However, because of the October hurricane, the final quarter's result of Royal UK was a pretax loss of £60.4 million compared with a profit of £36.8 million in the final quarter of the previous year.

This brought the year's profit of Royal UK down from £93.6 million to £3.3 million.

Royal is to create a non-insurance holding company - Royal Insurance Holdings - in which shareholders will receive one new share for each share held in Royal Insurance.

The board also proposes the option for shareholders to receive fully paid shares in lieu of cash, starting with the recommended final dividend now declared.



Dividend cheer: Alan Horsford (Photograph: Bill Warhurst)

Britoil board admits defeat

By John Bell

City Editor

Britoil, the North Sea exploration company, has finally admitted defeat in its efforts to fight off the unwanted £2.5 billion takeover from British Petroleum.

The board told shareholders that they should accept BP's offer of 500p a share in cash or the alternative of one BP share and 240p in cash.

It was a grudging recommendation. The Britoil board remains of the view that BP's offer is inadequate, but pointed out the disadvantages of further resistance.

Despite certain assurances given to the Government, BP will be permitted effectively to control Britoil regardless of whether a minority of shareholders remained.

Among the uncertainties were the future dividend policy under BP management, a probable fall in market value of Britoil shares after the closing of BP's offer and question marks over the future listing of Britoil shares.

The board said it would accept the offer in respect of its own holdings. Shareholders wishing to limit gains tax liabilities should consider the part share alternative, it said.

BP controls more than 81 per cent of Britoil's equity and would be able to compulsorily purchase the balance if it gains control of 93 per cent.

Pulling the plug on a £27 billion myth

COMMENT David Brewerton

Unless we run into an entirely new bull market, or inflation returns to zap money values, Mr Lawson and the Energy Secretary, Cecil Parkinson, should forget about raising £27 billion from the sale of the electricity industry.

It is far too fancy a number for the industry, and owes its origins to the book value of the assets to be sold rather than to a commercial assessment of the future earning capacity of a series of mature utilities. In fact, the figure has little to do with commercial reality, and the Government will be lucky to achieve £20 billion before costs, which will be considerable.

The book value of plant overstates the real value, and the cost of replacement with new plant is well below the original cost of existing plant. This provides Mr Parkinson with interesting options. He can write down the value of the plant to something more realistic, which in effect means setting a value which provides an adequate notional return on capital from electricity prices which are judged reasonable.

More likely he will leave the value of assets as they are. This will enable the 14 new undertakings to be sold at below book value (a bargain) and will perform the public relations trick of demonstrating that electricity prices are not too high (look at the low return on capital).

What will matter is cash generation, and that is unaffected whichever option is selected. Electricity needs to generate substantial cash to pay a high level of dividend to investors. Shares in the new undertakings will be priced on a yield

basis. Investors will need to feel that dividends can grow a little faster than inflation. That should be possible to achieve through increases in efficiency.

However, electricity is not another British Telecom, where there was enough inefficiency at the outset to provide years of profits growth. Nor is it another British Gas, where there is genuine opportunity for growth and diversification. For that reason, the floatations will have to be dressed up very prettily.

Conran's bold gamble

Few jobs can hold such tantalizing prospects as those awaiting Michael Julien who is to become new chief executive of Storehouse and heir to chairman Sir Terence Conran. In three years, Sir Terence intends to hand over and the peripatetic Mr Julien will become king of the high street. He describes it as the pinnacle of his career. However, as an experienced banker and enthusiastic - but inexperienced - retailer he must realize there are predators waiting to deprive him of his crowning. Sir Terence is taking a bold gamble. The Storehouse rationale has not been convincing. Shareholders must grapple at the current 242p price of the shares, compared with the offer of 445p from the Mounleigh Group turned down by Conran last year. The follow-up bid from Benlox, while not a serious threat, served to emphasize that Storehouse has been kicked into play. Julien, the man who would be king, is coming late to the high street. It remains to be seen whether he has come too late for Storehouse.

ICI - the missing factor

Matching market expectations for 1987, although the mix was slightly askew, left the ICI pundits free to return to their speculations about 1988 and 1989. For watching Britain's leading industrial company at work has always been a handy shortcut to pronouncing on the state of the country.

But few have noticed that the group has changed. Or at least if they have, their opinions have had little impact on the share price. The company insists it is not about to fall on its nose but the share price suggests otherwise. The shares are languishing at the bottom of their historic trading range, at a 20 per cent relative discount to the market. This is not in keeping with a company in sound health, expecting steady growth through 1988 and, the gods permitting, through 1989 also.

But the market's memory is elephantine and still holds against ICI the dark days of 1980 when it had the audacity to cut its dividend. Thus, ICI has good reason to believe it is the deafness of its audience rather than the clarity of its

message which is to blame for its present market rating.

The mix of yesterday's figures fuelled the bears who pointed to the faster growth of ICI's traditional strengths in industrial chemicals. Yet this progress is mostly feasible due to the restructuring of those interests and dramatic cost reductions. A strong market helped but ICI's vulnerability to a downturn has also been much reduced.

Overcapacity is no longer a feature of the European chemicals industry and even in the United States local demand is taking up much of the slack. Thus if there was a marked slow-down in world economies in 1989 - and this is still a matter for conjecture - ICI expects to be well placed to cope with it.

The currency effect on ICI is also much overstated. The market is missing a trick. ICI's capital gearing is virtually unchanged year-on-year at 27 per cent, even after spending £1.7 billion on Stauffer. In other words, the group is free to make acquisitions for cash without having to take account of its share price.

Firms in rush for Fimbra deadline

By Lawrence Lever

More than 800 investment firms applied for membership of Fimbra yesterday as tonight's deadline for submitting applications moved inexorably closer. If firms have not submitted applications by midnight they face closure under the Financial Services Act which comes into effect some time in April.

Fimbra - the Financial Intermediaries, Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association - is one of four self-regulatory organizations (SROs) primarily responsible for authorizing the investment community. While it was outlining the applications, it also played host to Mr Francis Maude, the junior Trade and Industry Minister, yesterday. He has already rejected a plea from Fimbra to delay implementation of the Act.

"The minister did visit at our request," a spokesman confirmed, adding diplomati-

cally, that "the purpose of the visit was to see how Fimbra works, given that we are the SRO creating public interest." In other words Fimbra wanted the minister to see the chaos that the long-delayed and often-criticized Act has brought.

There have been signs of panic in the insurance intermediary market as the deadline approached. One frantic caller rang up pleading for a fresh application pack, claiming his niece had eaten his existing one.

Officials at Fimbra were working until 1am yesterday in an attempt to deal with the mounting numbers of aspiring members. The Securities and Investments Board, the overseer of the new investor protection regime, has said it can accept applications after midnight tonight, if posted on or before today.

Acsis in £9.1m purchase

By Lawrence Lever

Acsis Group, the former stock market shell, has taken a further step towards becoming a broadly based marketing concern with the announcement of the £9.1 million purchase of Ingleby Group, an advertising sales company.

It is the second large deal orchestrated by Mr Darryl Phillips, the South African entrepreneur who acquired a controlling stake in Acsis last year.

Acsis is offering 10 of its shares for every 13 Ingleby. With Acsis's shares rising 7p to 72p, this valued Ingleby's shares at just over 55p. There is a cash alternative of 50p.

The purchase price could increase by a further £1.8 million, depending on the company's profitability. Ingleby, a warranting profits of not less than £1 million before tax for the year ended June 30, 1988,

'Replace CGT by tax on disposals'

By Rodney Lord, Economics Editor

Capital gains tax should be replaced by a tax on annual net disposals of capital assets, according to the Institute for Fiscal Studies. An interim report by the IFS Capital Taxes group claims that its proposed capital disposals tax would combine the advantages of an expenditure tax with a big simplification of capital taxation.

Reviewing the present system of capital taxation, the group - which includes tax economists and practitioners - concludes that CGT could not be abolished without some form of replacement because of the increased incentive to convert income into capital gains.

Abolishing CGT on pre-1982 gains, which do not enjoy indexation relief, and charging other gains to income tax would be a possible stop-gap alternative but would not have the advantages of the

new approach represented by the disposals tax.

Under the new tax, the need to match disposal proceeds with acquisition cost for each asset realized would disappear. Instead, tax would be levied on disposals net of acquisitions in each year and tax relief granted where acquisitions exceeded disposals.

Taxable income would continue to be taxed at the basic rate of income tax. Net disposals would be added to income net of basic rate tax for charge to the new CDT, subject to a tax-free threshold.

The result would be a tax on expenditure since all saving would be relieved of tax. Separating out higher rate income tax for conversion to a tax on consumption presents fewer transitional problems than converting income tax to an expenditure tax in toto, claims the IFS.

Firms' anti-bid devices face scrutiny

By Colin Narborough

The Takeover Panel has been considering the possibility of making companies disclose "poison pills" or other arrangements aimed at thwarting takeover bids - even if they are made well in advance of a bid situation, Mr Anthony Beever, the panel's director-general disclosed yesterday.

Replying to questions at the National Association of Pension Funds' conference at Eastbourne, he said that the panel had, however, decided after informal discussions that

it did not have jurisdiction for such activities outside bid situations and that the quotations department of the Stock Exchange was probably the right forum for this issue.

The quotations department was now looking at the matter and "there was no lack of sympathy from the panel," Mr Beever said.

NAPF officials said they understood that the panel had discussed the matter after pressure from shareholders' organizations, demanding that defensive measures should be disclosed, irrespec-

tive of whether a bid situation exists.

Companies who make pre-emptive arrangements to ward off potential predators are not currently obliged to disclose them, as they are not necessarily considered material where no bid is in place.

But the shareholders' organizations, including the NAPF, want as much transparency as possible about deals concerning shares that would prevent shareholders from freely considering offers.

Advocates of the wider-disclosure principle want no

time limit imposed if there is a rule change and seek rules that would apply to arrangements struck from a few days ago to decades ago.

Mr Beever delivered a speech written by Mr Robert Alexander, the panel chairman, who was unable to attend.

The panel was not merely interested in achieving minimum legal standards, like the system in the United States, where no restraints were placed on partial or two-stage bids, "poison pills" or "locking up the crown jewels."

Exploiting the bare market

The American version of Playboy magazine has just woken up to the fact that we have been in a bear market and is now inviting Wall Street to bare all. It is planning a "Women of Wall Street" spread and hopes to attract investment bankers, brokers and corporate finance executives. "We want women who are actively involved in the business of Wall Street as opposed to secretaries," says photo editor Jess Kohen. He says 20 women have contacted Playboy, but refuses to say who. The incentive is a \$2,500 payment, more than twice the usual fee, but, as one pointed out, considering the participants will be in the six-figure salary league, it could turn out to be somewhat measly severance pay. The last time a stockbroker appeared nude in Playboy, in 1983, she was fired. Marina Verola, who then worked for EF Hutton, now runs her own firm, Marina Securities, in Florida. But, even though the promotion due to be published in September-October - is guaranteed to bring out the bulls, Hutton, now part of Shearson Lehman, says posing nude would still violate its good conduct code. Any London nominations?

Going for bull

Let's hope they've got it right. Shearson Lehman, the giant US investment bank, yesterday took an equally giant full-page advertisement in the Wall Street Journal with a

CITY DIARY IN BOSTON

Duke's double helping

Local Governor Michael "The Duke" Dukakis, thought here to have a good chance of securing the Democratic nomination, has apparently raised \$14 million in campaign funds - more than twice that of his party rivals. So generous have his supporters been that in September, at a fundraising function hosted by Dukakis in

a Boston hotel, more than 4,000 people paid \$1,000 a head for dinner. "It was just a stand-up buffet," one incredulous paying guest told me, "but it raised \$4 million in one evening." It will also, I'm told, be going down in American political history books as the largest single fundraising event ever.

claiming: "The Worst Is Over." Underneath, it begins by quoting its own chief investment strategist, Michael Sherman, who says: "It looks like a classic end phase of a bear market. Many factors suggest that stock prices have seen their lows, and the

chance of another major nine-inch high heading, market relapse is becoming very remote. The time is not far off when investor attitudes should start to focus on opportunity rather than risk." Listing the reasons why it thinks there is "little downside risk and considerable upside potential at current levels," Shearson is clearly keen to drum up business. It is promoting a free, mega-bullish, share tipping brochure entitled "Where We Stand on the Stock Market: The Worst Is Over."

Playing Fields So this is what cookie queen Debbie Fields gets up to in her spare time. I spied her leaping up and down, shouting in Hollywood Squares this week, the US equivalent of our own television quiz game, Celebrity Squares. Hardly the decorum one would expect from the chairman of a company listed on the London Stock Exchange.

Murphy's law-ful

Only in America could a convicted criminal turn around and make a bona fide living from the very expertise that put him behind bars. Computer hacker Ian Murphy was sentenced to 1,000 hours of community service and two years' probation after he hacked into government data bases and even the White House switchboard to place long-distance telephone calls - running up to \$1,200 a day - he says he earned \$200,000 last year, legally - Murphy, aged 31, is now offering to advise companies about computer security. While one rival security consultant described it as "like hiring a burglar to watch your house after he broke in," Murphy, who operates his new business from his Philadelphia home, counters such criticism by claiming that hackers have saved businesses "a bundle of money" by pointing out holes in their systems. His clients include United Airlines, Dun & Bradstreet and General Foods and it looks as if he could be about to make a fortune - according to the FBI, the average US computer fraud case involves some \$600,000 compared with \$33,000 for other types of fraud.

Surely this must be a contradiction in terms. A women's business group at one of Boston's many colleges held an *anti-bank* meeting this week which was entitled "Can you constructively fire an employee?"

Carol Leonard



Royal Insurance

1987 RESULTS

- Pre-tax profit £274.0m (1986: £304.8m). The result was heavily impacted by worldwide weather losses of £231m, some £150m more than in 1986, and by the £22.6m adverse effect of exchange rate movements.
- Record pre-tax profits in the USA and improved results in all operating companies other than Royal UK which was affected by the £105m of losses from the October storm.
- A final dividend of 11.0p is recommended to produce a total dividend for the year of 19.25p, an increase of 24.2%.
- Proposed formation of new non-insurance holding company and option to receive shares in lieu of cash dividend.
- Apart from the extraordinary impact of weather losses all operating companies showed improvement in 1987. With a better start to the year in the UK the profits outlook for 1988 is relatively encouraging.



Royal Insurance

A full statement for the preliminary results of 1987 (of which the above is an extract) will be mailed to all shareholders, and is also available from Corporate Relations, Royal Insurance plc, 1 Cornhill, London EC3V 3QR. Please send me a copy of Royal Insurance's preliminary statement.

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As the name suggests, this division combines our glass-making skills with advanced electronics.

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Recently we worked with Rockwell Int. to win a £35 million contract to supply periscopes to the Royal Australian Navy.

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Barham team takes reins at Oakwood

By John Bell, City Editor

The City loves nothing so much as backing a winner. A few years ago, investors rushed to climb aboard the tiny "shell company" Wire and Plastic Products when Mr Martin Sorrell, the former Saatchi & Saatchi finance director, bought his way in.

A few months ago, shares of a sleepy Scottish group, Waverley Cameron, soared on the news that a man with as good a track record as any, Mr James Gulliver, planned to take over.

Yesterday, it was the turn of Oakwood, a modest distributor of sanitaryware, to back

in the reflected light of new-comers. Oakwood shares leapt 115p on news that Mr Norman Fetterman and Mr Tony Ward are buying sizeable share stakes in the company and will join the board.

The pair are well known to followers of special situations in the stock market. After many years as accountants solving corporate problems on behalf of their clients, they decided to find a company of their own. In 1983, they bought into a rundown optical company with a stock market capitalization of about £500,000, renamed it Barham

Group and set about looking for acquisitions.

By last October, Barham had thrived enough to attract a bid worth £99 million from International Business Communications. Meanwhile, Mr Fetterman and Mr Ward had built up an enthusiastic following among both institutional and private investors that should stand them in good stead in their new venture.

Now, they are underwriting part of a £3.1 million rights issue that will give them a

combined 16 per cent of the group. The two men are sinking about £1.3 million of their own cash into Oakwood. Mr Fetterman will become chairman and chief executive and Mr Ward joins the board as a non-executive director.

Oakwood first hit the City headlines last year when a group of investors, including Mr Victor Blank of Charterhouse, the merchant banking arm of the Royal Bank of Scotland, moved in. Mr Fetterman said yesterday that the group had taken the first steps

to re-establishing Oakwood on a sound footing.

"With my experience in building small businesses and the resources available from the rights issue, I look forward to an exciting time in leading the next stage of Oakwood's development," he said.

Oakwood's funding exercise takes the form of a 3-for-5 rights issue at 275p. It will leave a group with net assets of roughly £7 million and about £3 million in cash. The cash should provide the platform for a reasonable acquisition in the not-too-distant future.

But former followers of Mr

Fetterman and Mr Ward should not expect a Barham clone to emerge from Oakwood.

Barham concentrated on service companies which generated lots of cash. In today's market conditions, assets will be given much higher priority, at least for the time being.

Oakwood's chairman, Mr Anthony Bodie, welcomed the newcomers aboard yesterday. The single sour note was a sharp rise in the Oakwood share price on Wednesday, before the deal was announced to the Stock Exchange.

Philips plans cuts of up to 20,000 jobs

Eindhoven (Reuters) — Philips Gloeilampenfabrieken, the Dutch electronics group, sees a difficult year ahead as it intensifies attempts to cut costs, Mr Cor van der Klugt, the chairman, told journalists.

Mr van der Klugt said Philips' 1987 net profit fell by 19 per cent to Dfl 818 million (£244 million) as the fall of the dollar hurt sales in guilders terms, and forced Philips almost to double restructuring costs to move more manufacturing out of Europe.

The dollar last year averaged 2.2 guilders against 2.44 in 1986, he said. Fluctuations of the dollar and other currencies made for a very uncertain economic climate in 1988.

"1988 will be a difficult year, but with an outlook of better profits later when the restructuring is implemented."

He said Philips will attempt to reduce overhead costs by several hundred million guilders by the end of 1988, cutting between 10,000 and 20,000 jobs, largely in Europe but without large-scale forced redundancies.

At the end of 1987 Philips employed 336,700 people worldwide. The company put Dfl 515 million aside in 1987 for restructuring costs.

Philips aims to cut the number of manufacturing units in Europe to 120 from 200 in the next five years.

BASE LENDING RATES

ABN	9.00%
Adam & Company	9.00%
BCCI	9.00%
Consolidated Grds	9.00%
Co-operative Bank	8.50%
C. Hoare & Co	9.00%
Hong Kong & Shanghai	9.00%
Lloyds Bank	8.00%
Nat Westminster	9.00%
Royal Bank of Scotland	9.00%
TSB	9.00%
Citibank NA	9.00%

PRELIMINARY RESULTS TO 31 DECEMBER 1987 (unaudited)

	Increase for year	1987	1986
Profit before taxation	60-2%	£39.1m	£24.4m
Earnings per ordinary share	28-9%	13-14p	10-19p
Dividends per ordinary share	33-3%	8-00p	6-00p
Total shareholders' funds	34-1%	£750.8m	£559.7m
Capital employed	37-4%	£956.1m	£695.7m
Net assets per share	11-7%	336p	301p

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Donald Gordon, Chairman.

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Wickes splashes out on store display



Taking the plunge: Mr Henry Sweetman, chairman of Wickes — the do-it-yourself and building supplies company — by the swimming pool of the company's latest home improvement centre opened in Reading yesterday. The pool is part of the increased display space for Wickes products, which include conservatories, home extensions and double-glazed windows.

BHP wins backing for \$2bn buy back

From Richard Battley, Sydney

holders and opportunities for the future," he said.

Sir James Balderstone, the BHP chairman, said the uncertainty arising from the Bell-Elders presence on the company's register had been removed.

Approval of the restructuring, the biggest in Australian corporate history, would take several months to complete. Approval from the Supreme Court was required to cancel the 300 million shares, but that was expected to be a formality.

Mr Loton said that BHP's assets sales, an integral part of the restructuring and aimed at

generating at least Aus\$1 billion, would be continued.

Both he and Sir James defended the Aus\$7 buyback price of its shares as fair.

The market, however, did not concur. It revalued the shares at Aus\$6.66.

Sir James argued that the terms of the buyback transaction with Bell and Elders compared "very favourably" with other investments that BHP had considered last year.

Sir James said he and his fellow directors were "confident that gearing will not exceed a prudent and manageable level."

"It will be considerably

reduced over the next 12 to 18 months."

International and Australian banks had shown their confidence in the deal by offering up to Aus\$6 billion in facilities to effect the restructuring, Sir James said.

At the meeting, the dissenting shareholder, the West Australian State Government Insurance Commission, had not yet decided if it would challenge the buyback in the courts.

Mr Wyvern Rees, chairman of SDIC, which holds 2.5 per cent of BHP, told the meeting that his commission opposed the scheme.

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Series	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Alld Lym	280	54	50	47	5	18	25		
(1300)	320	32	28	27	8	18	25		
Alld Lym	380	14	22	23	30	32	30		
(1300)	320	32	28	27	8	18	25		
Alld Lym	440	43	70	22	25	42	47		
(1300)	320	32	28	27	8	18	25		
Alld Lym	500	30	47	48	65	68	72		
(1300)	320	32	28	27	8	18	25		
Alld Lym	560	18	21	27	6	11	16		
(1300)	320	32	28	27	8	18	25		
Alld Lym	620	20	26	35	12	13	22		
(1300)	320	32	28	27	8	18	25		
Alld Lym	680	16	25	32	10	14	18		
(1300)	320	32	28	27	8	18	25		
Alld Lym	740	14	23	32	7	13	17		
(1300)	320	32	28	27	8	18	25		
Alld Lym	800	12	21	32	3	7	11		
(1300)	320	32	28	27	8	18	25		
Alld Lym	860	10	19	32	2	6	10		
(1300)	320	32	28	27	8	18	25		
Alld Lym	920	8	17	32	1	5	9		
(1300)	320	32	28	27	8	18	25		
Alld Lym	980	6	15	32	1	4	8		
(1300)	320	32	28	27	8	18	25		
Alld Lym	1040	4	13	32	1	3	7		
(1300)	320	32	28	27	8	18	25		
Alld Lym	1100	3	11	32	1	2	6		
(1300)	320	32	28	27	8	18	25		
Alld Lym	1160	2	9	32	1	1	5		
(1300)	320	32	28	27	8	18	25		
Alld Lym	1220	1	7	32	1	1	4		
(1300)	320	32	28	27	8	18	25		
Alld Lym	1280	1	6	32	1	1	3		
(1300)	320	32	28	27	8	18	25		
Alld Lym	1340	1	5	32	1	1	2		
(1300)	320	32	28	27	8	18	25		
Alld Lym	1400	1	4	32	1	1	1		
(1300)	320	32	28	27	8	18	25		
Alld Lym	1460	1	3	32	1	1	1		
(1300)	320	32	28	27	8	18	25		
Alld Lym	1520	1	2	32	1	1	1		
(1300)	320	32	28	27	8	18	25		
Alld Lym	1580	1	1	32	1	1	1		
(1300)	320	32	28	27	8	18	25		
Alld Lym	1640	1	1	32	1	1	1		
(1300)	320	32	28	27	8	18	25		
Alld Lym	1700	1	1	32	1	1	1		
(1300)	320	32	28	27	8	18	25		
Alld Lym	1760	1	1	32	1	1	1		
(1300)	320	32	28	27	8	18	25		
Alld Lym	1820	1	1	32	1	1	1		
(1300)	320	32	28	27	8	18	25		
Alld Lym	1880	1	1	32	1	1	1		
(1300)	320	32	28	27	8	18	25		
Alld Lym	1940	1	1	32	1	1	1		
(1300)	320	32	28	27	8	18	25		
Alld Lym	2000	1	1	32	1	1	1		
(1300)	320	32	28	27	8	18	25		
Alld Lym	2060	1	1	32	1	1	1		
(1300)	320	32	28	27	8	18	25		
Alld Lym	2120	1	1	32	1	1	1		
(1300)	320	32	28	27	8	18	25		
Alld Lym	2180	1	1	32	1	1	1		
(1300)	320	32	28	27	8	18	25		
Alld Lym	2240	1	1	32	1	1	1		
(1300)	320	32	28	27	8	18	25		
Alld Lym	2300	1	1	32	1	1	1		
(1300)	320	32	28	27	8	18	25		
Alld Lym	2360	1	1	32	1	1	1		
(1300)	320	32	28	27	8	18	25		
Alld Lym	2420	1	1	32	1	1	1		
(1300)	320	32	28	27	8	18	25		
Alld Lym	2480	1	1	32	1	1	1		
(1300)	320	32	28	27	8	18	25		
Alld Lym	2540	1	1	32	1	1	1		
(1300)	320	32	28	27	8	18	25		
Alld Lym	2600	1	1	32	1	1	1		
(1300)	320	32	28	27	8	18	25		
Alld Lym	2660	1	1	32	1	1	1		
(1300)	320	32	28	27	8	18	25		
Alld Lym	2720	1	1	32	1	1	1		
(1300)	320	32	28	27	8	18	25		
Alld Lym	2780	1	1	32	1	1	1		
(1300)	320	32	28	27	8	18	25		
Alld Lym	2840	1	1	32	1	1	1		
(1300)	320	32	28	27	8	18	25		
Alld Lym	2900	1	1	32	1	1	1		
(1300)	320	32	28	27	8	18	25		
Alld Lym	2960	1	1	32	1	1	1		
(1300)	320	32	28	27	8	18	25		
Alld Lym	3020	1	1	32	1	1	1		
(1300)	320	32	28	27	8	18	25		
Alld Lym	3080	1	1	32	1	1	1		
(1300)	320	32	28	27	8	18	25		
Alld Lym	3140	1	1	32	1	1	1		
(1300)	320	32	28	27	8	18	25		
Alld Lym	3200	1	1	32	1	1	1		
(1300)	320	32	28	27	8	18	25		
Alld Lym	3260	1	1	32	1	1	1		
(1300)	320	32	28	27	8	18	25		
Alld Lym	3320	1	1	32	1	1	1		
(1300)	320	32	28	27	8	18	25		
Alld Lym	3380	1	1	32	1	1	1		
(1300)	320	32	28	27	8	18	25		
Alld Lym	3440	1	1	32	1	1	1		
(1300)	320	32	28	27	8	18	25		
Alld Lym	3500	1	1	32	1	1	1		
(1300)	320	32	28	27	8	18	25		
Alld Lym	3560	1	1	32	1	1	1		
(1300)	320	32	28	27	8	18	25		
Alld Lym	3620	1	1	32	1	1	1		
(1300)	320	32	28						

**Cutting
dot and
dash in
DIY deco**

FRIDAY

MR FRIDAY

to east.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Sterling index compared with 1975 was same at 74.8 (day's range 74.5-74.8).

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Market rates for February 25

	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
New York	1.7385-1.7390	1.7385-1.7385	0.34-0.31p	1.07-1.02p
Moscow	2.2320-2.2325	2.2320-2.2325	0.44-0.53p	
Amsterdam	3.3550-3.3530	3.3571-3.3530	11-14 1/4p	47-44p
Brussels	32.90-32.85	32.91-32.87	18-10p	53-50p
Frankfurt	11.6330-11.6335	11.6330-11.6335	14p-13 1/2p	
Dublin	1.1210-1.1235	1.1225-1.1235	15-10p	36-27p
Paris	2.0864-2.0869	2.0862-2.0869	14-11 1/4p	49-47p
London	80.30-80.35	80.34-80.35	10-10 1/2p	50-45p
Madrid	201.25-202.00	201.55-202.00	35-57p	105-138p
Cairo	11.5400-11.5410	11.5391-11.5393	41-44p	181-113p
Paris	10.1107-10.1273	10.1187-10.1273	11-1p	4-3p
London	10.5076-10.5086	10.5076-10.5086	10-10 1/2p	50-45p
London	827.04-827.74	827.04-827.74	1-1p	28-22p
London	20.97-21.05	20.98-21.01	8 1/2-8 1/4p	52-56p
London	2.4000-2.4007	2.4002-2.4007	11 1/2-11 1/4p	45-44p

Premiums as per Discount = 10.

OTHER STERLING RATES

Argentina austral	10.068-10.75
Australia dollar	2.4910-2.4640
Bahrian dirham	0.8325-0.8541
Brazil cruzado	189.824-170.771
Ceylon pound	0.9790-0.8770
Finland markka	2.7125-2.7250
Ghana cedi	7.575-7.250
Guinea franc	13.191-12.070
India rupee	22.25-20.40
Kuwait dirham	6.4580-6.5810
Libya dinar	1.3730-1.4575
Mexico peso	3.90-4.30
Nigeria naira	2.6550-1.9510
Saudi Arabia riyal	6.97-6.45
Singapore dollar	3.5547-3.5580
South Africa rand	1.7700-1.7795
Switzerland franc	2.6650-2.7025
U A E dirham	6.4550-6.4850

*Lloyds Bank, Rates supplied by
Barclay and Barclays Bank HOFEX

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Ireland	2.5715-2.5730	Denmark	0.6710-0.6710
Singapore	1.0440-2.0150	W Germany	1.8940-1.8950
London	1.5872-1.5885	Switzerland	1.5070-1.5070
Australia	1.3327-1.3337	Netherlands	1.5910-1.5925
Canada	1.0601-1.0606	France	5.7015-5.7015
London	1.0700-1.0700	Japan	128.60-128.70
Norway	0.5790-0.5840		

Rates supplied by Barclays Bank HOFEX and Exels.

MONEY MARKETS

Base Rates %: Clearing Banks % Floating Rate %

Discount Bankers' Loans %		Sterling Call %	
Overnight 14p-15p		6 month 7p-8p	
1 month 16p-17p		3 month 8p-9p	
2 month 17p-18p		6 month 8p-9p	
3 month 18p-19p		12 month 9p-10p	
4 month 19p-20p		Dollar Call %	
5 month 20p-21p		1 month 6.55-5.50	
6 month 21p-22p		12 month 7.05-7.00	

Prime Bank Bills (Discount %)	
1 month 8 1/2-9 1/2	
3 month 9 1/2-10 1/2	
6 month 9 1/2-10 1/2	
12 month 9 1/2-10 1/2	

Trading Bills (Discount %)	
1 month 8 1/2-9 1/2	
3 month 9 1/2-10 1/2	
6 month 9 1/2-10 1/2	
12 month 9 1/2-10 1/2	

Trade Bills (Discount %)	
1 month 8 1/2-9 1/2	
3 month 9 1/2-10 1/2	
6 month 9 1/2-10 1/2	
12 month 9 1/2-10 1/2	

Interbank %: Overnight: open 9 1/2 close 9 1/2	
1 week 9 1/2-9 1/2	
2 month 9 1/2-9 1/2	
3 month 9 1/2-9 1/2	
6 month 9 1/2-9 1/2	
12 month 9 1/2-9 1/2	

Local Authority Deposits (%)	
2 month 9 1/2	
3 month 9 1/2	
6 month 9 1/2	
12 month 9 1/2	

Local Authority Bonds (%)	
1 month 9 1/2	
3 month 9 1/2	
6 month 9 1/2	
12 month 9 1/2	

EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth
Dollar	6 1/2-6 1/2	6 1/2-6 1/2	6 1/2-6 1/2	6 1/2-6 1/2
Call 6 1/2-6 1/2				
Deutschmarks	3 1/2-3 1/2	3 1/2-3 1/2	3 1/2-3 1/2	3 1/2-3 1/2
Call 3 1/2-3 1/2				
French Franc	7 1/2-7 1/2	7 1/2-7 1/2	7 1/2-7 1/2	7 1/2-7 1/2
Call 7 1/2-7 1/2				
Swiss Franc:	11-11 1/2	11-11 1/2	11-11 1/2	11-11 1/2
Call 11-11 1/2				
Yen	4 1/2-4 1/2	4 1/2-4 1/2	4 1/2-4 1/2	4 1/2-4 1/2
Call 4 1/2-4 1/2				

ECGD

Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance, Make-up per day
January 25, 1980, A/B 1.000-1.000 per day
March 25, 1980, A/B 1.011-1.011 per day
Schwaben A/B 1.012-1.012 per day
January 25, 1980, A/B 1.012-1.012 per day
Schwaben A/B 1.012-1.012 per day
January 25, 1980, A/B 1.012-1.012 per day
Schwaben A/B 1.012-1.012 per day

- - LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Opn High Low Close Vol					Opn High Low Close Vol				
Three Month Securities					US Treasury Bond				
Mar 85	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	Previous open interest 123,500
Apr 85	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
May 85	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Jun 85	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Jul 85	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Aug 85	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Sep 85	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Oct 85	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Nov 85	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Dec 85	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Jan 86	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Feb 86	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Mar 86	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Apr 86	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
May 86	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Jun 86	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Jul 86	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Aug 86	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Sep 86	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Oct 86	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Nov 86	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Dec 86	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Jan 87	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Feb 87	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Mar 87	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Apr 87	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
May 87	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Jun 87	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Jul 87	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Aug 87	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Sep 87	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Oct 87	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Nov 87	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Dec 87	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Jan 88	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Feb 88	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Mar 88	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Apr 88	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
May 88	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Jun 88	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Jul 88	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Aug 88	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Sep 88	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Oct 88	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Nov 88	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Dec 88	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Jan 89	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Feb 89	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Mar 89	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Apr 89	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
May 89	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Jun 89	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Jul 89	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Aug 89	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Sep 89	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Oct 89	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Nov 89	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Dec 89	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Jan 90	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Feb 90	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Mar 90	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Apr 90	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
May 90	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Jun 90	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Jul 90	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Aug 90	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Sep 90	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Oct 90	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Nov 90	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Dec 90	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Jan 91	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Feb 91	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Mar 91	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Apr 91	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
May 91	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Jun 91	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Jul 91	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Aug 91	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Sep 91	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Oct 91	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Nov 91	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Dec 91	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Jan 92	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Feb 92	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Mar 92	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Apr 92	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
May 92	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Jun 92	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Jul 92	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Aug 92	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Sep 92	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Oct 92	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Nov 92	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Dec 92	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Jan 93	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Feb 93	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Mar 93	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Apr 93	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
May 93	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Jun 93	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Jul 93	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Aug 93	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Sep 93	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Oct 93	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Nov 93	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Dec 93	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Jan 94	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Feb 94	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Mar 94	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Apr 94	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
May 94	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Jun 94	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Jul 94	92.10	92.10	92.07	92.08	94.15	94.15	94.15	94.15	123,500
Aug 94	92.10	92.10							

LONDON FOX		LONDON METAL EXCHANGE			
and prices continues to as Crude but	CCGC Mar 1008-5 May 1050-30 Jul 1030-48	G W Johnson Dec 1098-86 Mar 1122-21 May 1142-41	Official prices/volume previous day (2/tonne) Cash Copper Gde A	3 month 1182.0-1187.0 1182.0-1187.0	Rudolf Worr Vol Tons

W Joyner	Sep 1070-80	Buy 6112	Copper Stand	1220.0-1240.0	1165.0-1195.0	194050	Futures
130.10-29.76	COFFEE	G W Joyner	Lead	385.0-396.0	349.50-359.50	212200	Quotations
nite	Mar 1203-30	Nov 1332-30	Zinc H Gide	495.50-496.00	499.00-499.50	212200	Steady
120.50-68.25	May 1261-80	Jan 1355-50	Silver Large	618.00-621.00	628.00-631.00	233550	Firm
120.50-39.76	Jul 1262-61	Mar 1390-70	Silver Small	618.00-621.00	628.00-631.00	45	Quotations
			Aluminum	1362.00-1363.00	1362.00-1363.00	45	Quotations

131.00-23.75	Corp 1400000	Top 50000	Aluminum H ²	7257-41305.0	1222.0-1228.0	178300	Outside
131.00-23.75	SUGAR	C (Columbus)	Alcohol	2355.0-2340.0	2185.0-2200.0	4075	Outside
131.00-23.75	FOB	Vol: 10175		9950-10000	8600-8630	4944	Outside
134.80-32.00	Mar 172.6-74.0	Oct 174.6-74.0					
136.50-32.00	May 175.8-76.2	Dec 173.0-74.0					
137.00-32.00	Aug 174.4-74.8	Mar 176.0-76.2					

† (Canto per Troy wt. * (\$ per tonne)

LONDON MEAT	MEAT & FISH
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LONDON GRAIN FUTURES				FUTURES (%)		CATTLE & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION	
WHEAT close (2/25)	May 261	Live Pig Contract			Average futures prices at representative markets on February 25		
Mr 104.75	May 107.25	Mar	Open	Close			
Sp 101.80	May 103.60	Apr	91.50	90.80			
Barley close (2/25)	Jan 105.75	Jun	91.50	91.80			
	Dec 89						

CATTLE		PIGS	
100 lbs	102.50	150 lbs	102.50
200 lbs	102.50	250 lbs	102.50
300 lbs	102.50	350 lbs	102.50
400 lbs	102.50	450 lbs	102.50
500 lbs	102.50	550 lbs	102.50
600 lbs	102.50	650 lbs	102.50
700 lbs	102.50	750 lbs	102.50
800 lbs	102.50	850 lbs	102.50
900 lbs	102.50	950 lbs	102.50
1000 lbs	102.50	1050 lbs	102.50

Chowder	Mr 104.25	My 108.85	Sp 87.80	Aug	90.80	91.30	GB (+/-)	10.00	10.87	0.87
Chowder	Mr 100.40	My 102.40	Sp 104.75	Oct	94.80	94.80	Eng/Wal (%)	-4.3	+0.65	-0.61
Chowder	0.50	141.00		Any			Eng/Wal (+/-)	-4.3	-2.3	-8.1
Chowder	0.50	158.50		Any	112.50	112.50	Eng/Wal (+/-)	67.15	150.83	107.27
Chowder	0.50	95.00		Any	112.50	112.50	Scotland (%)	-1.0	-0.29	-0.78
Chowder	0.50	95.00		Any	112.50	112.50	Scotland (%)	-1.0	-21.9	-3.6

100.00	108.00	Aug 1233.0-233.6	Feb 798	unq.		Scotland (+/-)	69.56	148.28	108.16
Vol 136			Vol 200	Vol Pig-O Carbs-U			+0.13	+3.06	+0.56

* Estimated dead carcass weight

Europeans favour the return of English clubs

By John Goodbody and Ian Stafford

The rest of Europe wants English football clubs to play in next season's European competitions, according to a poll published by *The Times* today.

There is a cautious welcome to English clubs by the individual football associations and indeed several are campaigning vigorously for readmission. English clubs have been banned from Europe since May 1985, when 39 people died in rioting by Liverpool supporters at the European Cup final in Brussels.

UEFA, the governing body for European football which imposed the original indefinite ban, is conducting a similar survey of member associations and will collate the information at the end of March.

The executive committee is to meet in May to discuss the readmission of English clubs but will clearly be influenced by the opinion of its member nations and also the behaviour of English supporters in domestic matches until the end of the season. But it is probable that any favourable decision could be overturned by an outbreak of violence involving England followers at the European Championship in West Germany in June.

As a series of articles this week in *The Times* has shown, it is only detailed planning and expert policing that have

Hibbitt ponders action

Kenny Hibbitt, the Bristol Rovers midfielder, is considering suing Gordon Armstrong of Sunderland for compensation over the tackle which left him with a broken leg on Wednesday night.

Hibbitt believes Armstrong could have pulled out of the tackle because the ball had gone.

"I feel bitter about it because this could be the end of my playing career," Hibbitt, aged 37, said. However, Denis Smith, the Sunderland man-

prevented hooliganism in England from becoming increasingly commonplace and leading sociologists have warned that the chances of it erupting again during European competitions are "very, very high".

Almost all of the governments in the European countries are following the line of their football associations. But the government of Belgium maintains its ban on English clubs imposed after the 1985 Liverpool v Juventus European Cup final.

Many football associations have clearly been influenced

The Times survey, page 34

by the fact that European competitions have been devalued since English clubs were banned. But also many Continental clubs see a draw against a Football League team as very attractive and financially beneficial.

Ted Croker, the secretary of the Football Association, said yesterday: "It is very encouraging to hear of the findings. Having travelled extensively around Europe since Hysel, it confirms my own impression that because of the steps we have taken in England to solve our problems, other countries will now be pleased to see us back."

"I hope the report UEFA will receive next month has the same response. If that is

sager, described the tackle as late, but not vicious.

Rovers are also considering lodging an official complaint to Sunderland after damage estimated at about £500 was caused to the ceiling of the away team's dressing room.

"Bath City, who own the ground, have complained to us," Bob Twyford, the Rovers secretary, said. "They are looking into how the damage could have been caused, and if they decide it is Sunderland's fault, we will invoice them for the damage."

the case then we can feel very optimistic. Let us hope we can have a clean sheet up to the end of June. If the behaviour continues as it has since Hysel then I am very hopeful."

Philip Carter, the president of the Football League, said: "This is marvellous news. The individual associations in Europe understand our situation and are mindful of the action we have taken to curb hooliganism. I believe the degree of control taken by the clubs and the police is superior to most other countries."

"I feel English clubs bring something extra to European competitions and I am sure the rest of Europe believes they can control our supporters and appreciate the hard work put in by our Government, the police, the clubs and the football authorities. We are still talking about a handful of people who cause trouble in this country."

Such a handful was in evidence at Luton Town on Wednesday, where there were six stabbings and five arrests before the FA Cup fifth round replay against Queens Park Rangers. Luton's ban on away supporters does not apply to FA Cup games, and these incidents followed similar trouble when Luton met Bradford City in an earlier round of the competition.

Chief Inspector Geoff Betteridge, of the Luton police, said that a number of Rangers' supporters on the way to the game were attacked by what he described as "local youths".

Trouble broke out in the town soon after the arrival of 2,000 Rangers supporters, the majority of whom had tickets. Police reported gangs of between 30 and 40 roaming the streets, and a piece of iron was thrown through the window of a QPR supporters' club coach carrying 55 passengers. The coach was receiving a police escort at the time. There was no serious trouble at the match itself.

Waiting by a silent phone

By Keith Macklin

Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown, especially when that crown is that of Britain's best and the world's highest priced player. This must have been a disturbing week for Elliott Hanley, who might have expected a flood of inquiries when Wigan placed him on the transfer list after a terminal dispute with the coach, Graham Lowe.

However, the telephone lines to Wigan's Central Park and to Hanley's home in Leeds have been silent, with the only calls coming from

journalists. The asking fee of £225,000 plus Hanley's wages, reputed to be around £1,000 a week, have discouraged even the few wealthy clubs from making bids.

Leeds made no offer, with their coach, Maurice Bamford, saying that the price was far too high, even for a player of Hanley's class. Bamford went on to add that he thought the present world record fee, paid by his own club for Gary Schofield and previously Lee Crooks, were also far too high.

The St Helens' coach, Alex

Murphy, was prophetic when he said that the fee would effectively put Hanley out of the game, and St Helens have made no approaches to Wigan. Warrington, who had been preparing a package deal involving player exchange, withdrew when Wigan inquired about men like Paul Cullen and Mike Gregory.

The Wigan directors are still suffering from split loyalties. They would like the world-class Hanley in their side, but will not rock the boat with their New Zealand International coach, Lowe. There was an uneasy truce when Hanley turned up for training for the Widnes match, but Lowe was obviously unhappy with the arrangement and he insisted on the transfer-listing of Hanley after an altercation in the dressing room.

It appears that Hanley had an argument with a senior and much-respected Wigan player about a quotation from a newspaper, apparently accurately describing the Central Park situation, and the matter became so heated that the senior player sensibly walked away from the confrontation.

The Great Britain coach, Malcolm Reilly, is watching the situation anxiously. Hanley is the Great Britain captain and captain-elect for the Australasian tour, but at the moment an isolated, non-playing skipper under dispute is not the ideal choice for a tour captain.

Hearn challenges the ruling body's monopoly

By Steve Acteson

Barry Hearn, snooker's leading manager, has thrown himself directly into a collision course with the game's ruling body, the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association (WPBSA), following his announcement yesterday that he is to stage two major tournaments.

Hearn has run events in the past, including his unsuccessful world series, but these have largely involved only his own eight players and were never seen as a challenge to the WPBSA's virtual monopoly.

Hearn, however, who resigned from the board of the WPBSA in October since when he has frequently castigated them, is now directly challenging right at the top. His two tournaments will both be held in London's Docklands.



Nicky Henderson, trainer (right), looks on disconsolately as See You Then hobbles into his box at Wincanton yesterday

Injury ends champion's career

By Andrew Longmore

Racing is a world full of hopes. Every horse in every race carries the individual hopes of jockey, trainer, owner and punter. But yesterday, as Champion hurdler See You Then pulled up badly lame at just after the second last hurdle at Wincanton, there was just one universal hope: that one of racing's great champions would survive.

For a moment, the fact that See You Then would be unable to try for a record fourth Champion Hurdle seemed utterly irrelevant. For rather longer, as the horse was carried off in the racecourse ambulance to a nearby vet for x-rays, even survival seemed a long shot.

Happily, by the evening the news was better. See You Then had a minor fracture just below the joint of his off-hind. Even so, barring one of the miracles which Nicky Henderson, trainer, has been performing for the last three years, See You Then's racing career ended yesterday on a blasted hill above Wincanton.

The irony is that See You Then has had trouble with both forelegs, but never with his hind legs.

Before the race, there was

Stearnsby was withdrawn from the Jim Ford Challenge Cup in unusual circumstances. Rod Simpson, Stearnsby's trainer, informed Michael Meredith, the clerk of the course, that because of a mistake by stable staff Stearnsby had been given the wrong feed yesterday and it had contained the drug butazolidine.

The food was quickly taken away, but oats were found

around Stearnsby's mouth and it was assumed he had already eaten. Simpson consulted his vet and was warned that if he ran the horse and it was tested, the result was likely to be positive so he withdrew him.

A racehorse is usually given three weeks to clear a drug from its system, which could prevent Stearnsby running at Cheltenham but not in the Grand National.

beaten by the eventual winner, Jenny Pitman, are a great double-act full of character, humour and both as tough as old boots. If anyone could lift the spirits these two could and they did.

The former Gold Cup winner ran a game race on his first appearance for almost two

years and, although finishing last of three behind the Gold Cup second favourite, Kildimo, he will take his place, all being well, alongside the winner in the line-up for the coveted Cheltenham prize next month.

"Very satisfactory," Mrs Pitman beamed. "I was a little bit anxious because I thought he might get into a hard race at one point and I knew he would blow up. He made a couple of mistakes but he had a good workout and, though we will have to see how he is in a few days, I'm quite pleased."

The Lad's well-being was a tribute not just to her trainer's skill but to racing's community spirit, Mrs Pitman said. "Everyone has done their bit to get him back. Last November things were not going well and it was on the cards that he might have to be put down. But he's given a lot of people a lot of pleasure over the years and the help I have been given by everyone in racing has been tremendous."

In the pleasure and pain of an extraordinary day, Kildimo's performance stood out but Bading's joy was shattered only half an hour later when Nebbin, his 1987 Tote Gold Trophy winner, had to be put down.

A double high for O'Reilly

Calgary - With O'Reilly, with two gold medals and world records already to his credit, believes a third in the 3,000 metres short track speed skating is within his grasp (Chris Moore writes). "That's my weakest distance. But I'm on such a high that anything is possible, although I'll be satisfied to finish in the top three," he said.

In this demonstration sport at the Winter Olympics, O'Reilly's remarkable achievements are despite him competing at a major disadvantage to his Canadian and Japanese rivals.

"I only train two hours a week, and then usually after 10.30 p.m. when my local rink in Birmingham has closed to the public," he said. "The Canadians train on ice up to 12 hours a week and Japanese to 28, so I have to work that much harder in other areas - cycling, weight lifting and even roller skating, to achieve the same fitness and power."

America's Cup about-turn

By Barry Pickthall

In a remarkable about-turn, the San Diego Yacht Club has agreed in the New York Supreme Court to open up the America's Cup to other challengers, including Peter de Savary's Blue Arrow syndicate.

The announcement came during a court hearing called by the British to revoke the San Diego's trusteeship of the America's Cup after the club had allegedly gone back on promises that it would allow multiple challenges for the next decade.

"We sympathize with the Royal Bournemouth Y.C. (through whom de Savary lodged his challenge) and never expected to host a one-on-one America's Cup race," Tom Ehnman, the executive vice-president of the defending club, said after the court hearing. This contradicted his view in December that the club would not accept other challengers in deference to the 21 12-metre syndicates that had been disenchanted by the New Zealand's court-enforced challenge.

However, San Diego's move may prove an empty gesture, for, unless Judge Ciparick rules otherwise, the club remains insistent that other challengers must measure up to the same dimensions as New Zealand's 90ft waterline monohull while it chooses to defend the trophy with a faster catamaran. It has also made no concessions on a date of the match, now set to start, according to the New Zealanders, on September 19.

Peter Debruce, a spokesman for Michael Fay's New Zealand challenge, said: "Even after the other challenges met in New York in December to demand their right to participate, the San Diego Y.C. refused to accept other nations. Now, knowing that their position is untenable, they have made an eleven-hour about face, demonstrating that their previous refusal was totally unjustified."

The British action has called on the court to extend the date of the challenge to allow other groups the same 10-month lead time that the

New Zealanders gave the Americans.

The New Zealanders, who have stated that they would be prepared to defer the event to May 6, 1989, to allow other challengers time to build their boats, remain scathingly sceptical about San Diego's intentions.

From Los Angeles last night, de Savary said that the Blue Arrow challenge would not follow the New Zealanders in building a monohull if the Californians choose to defend in a catamaran.

"If they are allowed a multihull, then so are we," de Savary said. "There can only be one set of rules. This sudden change of heart by San Diego is one of their usual tricks to agree to a change when they know it is too late for us to react. It is wholly unfair to expect us to build a boat in seven months."

Surrey go abroad
Surrey County Cricket Club take their playing staff to Stajel for 11 days on April 3 as part of their preparation for the new season.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Games bid for Berlin

The West German Olympic Committee will campaign for the 2004 Games to be jointly held in East and West Berlin.

"We shall pursue the Games for both sectors of Berlin in 2004," Willi Daume, the chairman of the committee, said in an interview with a Hamburg newspaper yesterday. The Olympics were last held in the city in 1936.

Moral support

Martina Navratilova wrote a letter to an anti-apartheid organization stating she supported their aims and was considering joining their cause. The American tennis player had likened demonstrators to terrorists when players were subjected to protests during the Australian Open in January.



Trading places: Underwood

Right of way

Leicester Rugby Union club will play Rory Underwood on the right wing against Northampton on Saturday to help him get used to the unaccustomed position forced on him by the England selectors to accommodate Chris Oti.

Tyson's venue

Mike Tyson, the world heavyweight boxing champion, will face Michael Spinks in Atlantic City on June 27, Donald Trump, the hotelier, said.

END COLUMN

Seconds out in Soho Square

By Srikumar Sen
Boxing Correspondent

It was a perfect double act up there in that office in Wardour Street, looking down on the shocking pink notices of the "Peep Show, Live Girls" billboard with the naked bums. There was no stripping here of course because this was the Duff and Barrett show, a most respectable boxing promotion group.

From those well-appointed offices, lined with black-and-white cartoons of famous prizefighters, black and white boxers were signed up for shows and Wembley and the Albert Hall. The telephones seemed to be permanently connected to the fight centres around the world, especially in the United States, feeding out "suitable opponents" for cotton-wadded Duff and Barrett boxers.

The arrangement worked well. Barrett, 59, in his immaculate suits and mirror-black shoes did the talking. Duff, 58, in equally expensive wear that always looked rough and ready, did the walking. Barrett never raised his voice. When he met me he always feigned. "Sreene..." he would say, drawing out my name. You never knew what was coming after that. Duff did the bawling out. You never knew what hit you.

Barrett was always in Wardour Street, always good for 500 words at the drop of a hint of publicity. Duff was in Florida, New York, Philadelphia, Atlantic City, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, signing up a champion ready to fall at the drop of a glove.

Now, after 25 years, the partnership is over. Barrett is moving out from their two-deck room. No reason has been given for the split by either side. Barrett said: "We are parting on friendly terms. Some of Mickey's fighters could appear on my show and



Double act: Duff (left) made matches, Barrett publicity

vice-versa. I shall be promoting everywhere but at Wembley."

Duff said: "We have been together a long time, and it's probably the longest-running relationship in boxing, but people do get divorced after 25 years. It does sadden me and I am sure it saddens Mike."

Together with Harry Levene, Jarvis Astaire and Terry Lawless they promoted 15 world title bouts, yet strangely enough yesterday Barrett could not single one out. "There were so many, many great fights," Barrett said. The contest that sticks in his mind like a childhood memory is the bout between Frankie Taylor and Lesmie "The Lion" Williams at the Albert Hall.

"March 1963," he says off pat. "It was our second fight together. I was promoting at Manor Place Baths and Bournemouth and places like that and he was a matchmaker. We came together, and that was our second fight. It was sold out. It was a terrific fight."

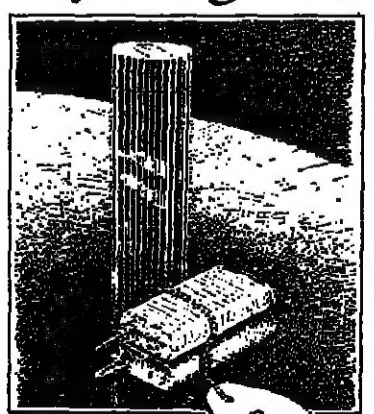
The split could have been brought on by any number of factors, even personality clashes. As Duff says: "There have been a number of circumstances which have built up over a number of years. The fact that I am in America a lot has not helped." The last straw was almost certainly Barrett's public criticism of the unsportsmanlike Frank Bruno match between middle-aged Minneapolis heavyweight, Chuck Gardner, last year.

When Duff moved to the United States the opponents of Duff and Barrett predicted that the partnership would fold. They felt Barrett on his own would not be a match for Frank Warren, the bitter rival. Barrett was not content as a referee, a judge of boxing or boxing trends as Duff.

Barrett has not been too lucky with his fighters. Among his signings in recent years have been Cameron "Hammer" Lightow, who retired after never fulfilling his amateur potential; Ray Gillybody, the former British bantamweight champion, who never recovered from a devastating loss to Sandy Oduaga and also retired; Gary Sneath, Grandmaster best young prospect, who defaulted to Frank Warren; and Alex Dickson, who two nights ago lost his British lightweight title by a knockout.

Now is the time to see if Barrett can stand on his own two feet.

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